

Hafa Adai!

MVA explores Taiwan market at Taipei Tourism Expo 2024. **PAGE 2**
\$800K budget proposed for medical referral program. **PAGE 3**

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IN PROBE INTO NONPROFITS THAT RECEIVED OVER \$1M IN ARPA FUNDS 'House Committee should look into Homeland Security'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER



Flores

Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan) has asked the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster-Related Funding to pull documents from CNMI Department of Homeland Security in relation to an investigation into nonprofits who that received over \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds.

See **HOUSE** on Page 4

A rare celebration of Indigenous Pacific cultures underscores cost of climate change

By ANITA HOFSCHEIDER
Grist

Originally published on Grist on June 7, 2024.

More than 2,000 people

gathered in Hawaii this past two weeks for the 13th Festival of Pacific Island Arts and Culture. It's the largest gathering of Indigenous Pacific peoples in the world. And it comes at a critical time for the island region known as Oceania as sea levels, storms, and other climate effects threaten traditional ways of life and connections to land and sea.

Normally the festival takes place every four years and

See **RARE** on Page 4



RACQUEL H. FLOYD

U.S. Marines welcome legacy members of the Marine division that stormed the same Saipan beach in Susupe in 1944 to mark 80th Battle of Saipan Anniversary Commemoration last Saturday.

KICKOFF TO 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF SAIPAN Sons of US Marines reenact start of Battle of Saipan

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Legacy members of the Marine division

who fought against Japanese forces on Saipan on June 15, 1944 recreated the invasion that started the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan Commemo-

ration last Saturday.

To poignantly mark the historic occasion that happened 80 years ago,

See **SONS** on Page 4



Liberation Day festivities kick off

By CHRYSAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of community members filled the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan last Saturday for the first night and official opening of the 78th Liberation

Day festivities.

The opening of the festivities had followed the commemoration of 80 years of peace in the Pacific that morning, a reflective look back at the Battle of Saipan and

See **KICK off** on Page 4

CHRYSAL MARINO

Lawmakers pose for a photo with Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, members of the 2024 Liberation Day Committee, visiting World War II veteran families, 2024 Liberation Day Queen candidates, and current crown holder 2019 Liberation Day Queen Pernalynn Borja Camacho during the opening ceremony of the 78th Liberation Day Festivities last Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

INSIDE



LOCAL

Rep. Julie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota) has officially announced her bid for reelection to continue serving the people of Rota in the upcoming 2024 general elections.

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BUSINESS

Mama Rio's Café in Garapan has introduced a bevy of student-friendly rice meals right in time when school is out this summer.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

Charles Barkley said Friday that next season will be his last on TV, no matter what happens with the NBA's media deals.

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Local

MVA explores Taiwan market at Taipei Tourism Expo 2024



MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, fifth left, leads the Marianas delegation at the Taipei Tourism Expo 2024 held on May 31-June 3, 2024, held in Taiwan at Taipei World Trade Center.

As part of their effort to seek partnerships to further develop Taiwan as a source market for visitors to the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority joined Taipei Tourism Expo 2024 on May 31-June 3, 2024, at Taipei World Trade Center.

Taipei Tourism Expo is the second biggest travel and consumer fair in Taiwan, allowing national and state tourism offices from all over the world, airlines, travel agents, hotels, and other tourism stakeholders

to promote their products to the Taiwanese market. This year, the expo attracted 307,996 attendees. The event attracted 250 manufacturers, 800 booths, four major airlines—China Airlines, Evergreen Airlines, Cathay Pacific, and Tigerair—and 12 international exhibitors including the MVA, Guam, Republic of Palau, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Nepal, and Russia.

The expo was opened with

remarks by newly elected Taiwan President Lai Ching Te.

“The MVA has participated in the Taipei Tourism Expo in prior years to engage both travel trade partners and travelers about the attractions of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota,” said MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, who led The Marianas marketing team at the event. “This was our first participation since prior to the pandemic as the MVA continues to explore the potential



MVA

Taiwan President Lai Ching Te, eighth left, attends the Taipei Tourism Expo 2024 held on May 31-June 3, 2024, in Taiwan at Taipei World Trade Center. The Marianas Visitors Authority delegation, led by Deputy Managing Director Judy Torres, fifth left, promoted The Marianas at the expo.

of developing markets by seek tourism partnerships and inviting visitors from Taiwan to our destination.”

Prior to the pandemic in FY 2019, a total of 902 Taiwanese visited the Marianas. So far this fiscal year 73 Taiwanese have visited.

The MVA's participation was covered by Taiwanese media, including *Travel Rich Weekly*, *Travel Trend News Magazine*, and *Xim-media*. (PR)



MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes the Marianas at the Taipei Tourism Expo 2024 held on May 31-June 3, 2024, held in Taiwan at the Taipei World Trade Center. The expo attracted over 307,000 attendees.

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**Commonwealth
Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors**



PUBLIC NOTICE AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 - I. May 30, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
 - E. Correspondence
- II. Management Report
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 - B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
 - C. Legal Counsel's Report
- III. Old Business
 - A. Update on the Chief Financial Officer Position
 - B. Personnel Matters
 - C. Update on the Procurement of Engine Generators for Saipan & Rota
 - D. Proposed New Classification and Compensation System
 - E. CUC Drug Policy
- IV. New Business
 - A. Ratification of Engine #6 Crankshaft Rework
 - B. Sustainable Power Energy Source
 - C. Privatization of Power Generation
- V. Public Comments*
- VI. Executive Session**
- VII. Announcement
- VIII. Adjournment

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO
CHAIRWOMAN

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, to consult with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The fiscal year 2025 budget proposed by the Office of the Governor sets aside \$800,000

\$7.3K in federal financial aid available for students enrolled in NMC’s Fall semester

Qualified Northern Marianas College students who are looking to access financial aid can receive up to \$7,365 in Pell grants for NMC’s Fall 2024 Semester if they submit the 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Financial Aid and the supporting documents before Aug. 15, 2024.

The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program’s various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

Students can submit a FAFSA by logging on to fafsa.gov. The necessary supporting documents can be found at marianas.edu/fao. NMC’s school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants, applicants can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu or call 237-6791/2/3/4. Applicants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Con-

for the Health Network Program (formerly known as the medical referral program) headed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

According to the budget pro-

centration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associates of Arts in Business, Associates of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associates of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associates of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associates of Science in Nursing, Associates of Science in Agriculture, Associates of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associates of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associates of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

The 2024 Fall semester for NMC begins on Aug. 19, 2024. The admissions deadline for new students is on Aug. 9, 2024. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. **(PR)**

\$800K budget proposed for medical referral program

posals submitted by the Office of the Governor to the Legislature, the Office of the Governor is proposing a \$800,000 allocation for the HNP program.

“This budget proposal allocates \$800,000 of the total \$6.5 million requested by CHCC for the operations and activities of the Health Network Program to defray the cost of medical care not available in the Commonwealth,” said the governor’s proposal.

However, based on CHCC’s previous projected expenditure for HNP for FY24, an allocation of \$800,000 may not suffice.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña recently submitted a letter to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) requesting funding for the HNP program.

Public Law 22-33, which returned the HNP program to CHCC, allows the corporation to submit a funding request to the governor and the Legislature if the appropriated funding has been exhausted prior to the end of the fiscal year.

In this case, not only was the appropriated funding insufficient, CHCC had to put up its own funds to keep the

program going.

In her letter to Villagomez, Muña said as of March 31, 2024, the year-to-date expenditures for the program amounted to \$2.3 million.

Muna, in her letter notes that of the \$797,711 that the FY 2024 budget law appropriated to HNP, only \$655,470 has been transferred.

According to Muña, based on CHCC’s annualized expenditures, the total projected expenditure for HNP for FY 2024 is expected to be around \$4.6 million.

Muña said to ensure the

smooth continuation of the program, CHCC has already advanced \$1.6 million of its own funds to augment the funding shortfall for HNP.

CHCC asked the Legislature for an additional funding of \$3.8 million to sustain the activities of the HNP and to return CHCC’s funds to its own coffers.

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**NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE**
P.O. Box 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement to end violence in the CNMI. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV's mission to eliminate domestic and sexual violence.

Position Description

Position Title: Program Assistant
Salary Range: \$10.00/hr to \$14.00/hr

Job Summary

The Program Assistant will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV and its Board to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Assistant will support the daily operations of NMCADSV, including support for NMCADSV staff, the Executive Director and/or NMCADSV Board/Members, as assigned.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Executive Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities; including event planning, logistics for NMCADSV and Board meetings, preparation of materials, and travel logistics
- Provides administrative and clerical support to the Executive Director and the NMCADSV Board of Directors and Members; including receiving calls, receiving and logging mail, and maintaining records, as assigned
- Maintains and manages the NMCADSV membership database
- Assists with finance and operations of the NMCADSV; including daily bookkeeping, vendor relations and record keeping
- Attends all meetings and conference calls, as requested
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required by the Executive Director
- Oversees the maintenance of office equipment and manages office inventory
- Assists the Executive Director in grants management, including the preparation of application packets and gathering data for reports
- Performs other duties, as assigned

Minimum Qualifications

- High School Diploma, or equivalent
- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- Experience in providing clerical and administrative support, including record keeping
- Demonstrated abilities in verbal and written communication
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
- Willingness to learn in all areas of NMCADSV operations
- Flexible Schedule
- Must be able to travel

Highly Desired Qualifications

- 1 year of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license

To Apply:

A **Resume and Cover Letter** should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 28, 2024**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit **resume and cover letter** to management@endviolencenmi.org, deliver to NMCADSV's office (**between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**) at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within the last 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice and Grant # G-2301MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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Position Description

Position Title: Program Coordinator
Salary Range: \$14.00/hr. to \$18.25/hr.
Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt. Full Benefits, including paid leave and health insurance.

Job Summary

The Program Coordinator will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, Associate Director, and other NMCADSV staff to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Coordinator will report to NMCADSV's Associate Director, assist with the daily operations of NMCADSV, and provide support for NMCADSV's programmatic activities. The Program Coordinator will plan and execute activities in relation to NMCADSV's mission and goals, with particular attention to specific activities outlined in corresponding grant applications.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Associate Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities, including training and program development.
- Assists with development of presentation and training materials.
- Conducts presentations and assists with training events.
- Develops and executes community outreach and education activities.
- Assists with program evaluation.
- Maintains relationships and works collaboratively with a variety of organizations.
- Builds and maintains partnerships with community organizations and government agencies.
- Works with community organizations and government agencies to identify and address training needs.
- Attends all meetings (virtual or in-person) as assigned.
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required or requested.
- Assists in grants management, including the preparation of application packets, gathering data for reports, and preparing reports.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience with community organizing and/or outreach
- Experience planning and executing events
- Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral communication
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications and Google Applications
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines
- Ability to work some nights and weekends
- Experience with assessments and analysis
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland

Highly Desired Qualifications

- Experience working in social justice or working directly with survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Knowledge of dynamics of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- Knowledge of and commitment to culturally relevant, empowerment, and strength-based strategies for eliminating sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- 1 year or more of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license

To Apply:

A **Resume and Cover Letter** should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 28, 2024**. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (PHS)
MATERNAL, INFANT, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS (MICAH)
TITLE V MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-018
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 21, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

RFP24-CHCC/CGC-016

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 4th, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

SONS

From page 1

William Michels Jr., John Padley Jr., and David Knisley were welcomed by U.S. Marines with a wreath on Green Beach 2, Susupe at 8am to

RARE

From page 1

rotates between the three regions of the Pacific: Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. But because of the pandemic, the event hasn't happened for eight years. It was last held on Guam, and this is the first time since it was established in 1972 that it's occurring in Hawaii. From now through June 16, Indigenous peoples from more than two dozen Pacific nations and territories will be sharing their weaving, tattoo creations, films, visual art, wood carvings, dances, songs, literature, music, food, and other expressions of Indigenous culture.

Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, a University of Hawai'i professor from the Solomon Islands and former director of the university's Center of Pacific Island Studies, said even though the focus of the festival is on performing arts, Pacific cultures are deeply interwoven with the environment.

"We produce and perform our culture vis-a-vis the environment," said Kabutaulaka. "The baskets that we weave, the dances that we dance, are often about the environment. We use materials around us to create material culture."

Grist thanks its sponsors. Become one.

That interdependency makes climate change an ex-

re-enact the landing.

A flyby from an F/A-18C Hornets of the Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224 also marked the occasion. Then, along with the local scouts, they were taken to the Veterans Memorial where the wreath was placed.

The legacy members, sons of those who fought during the Battle of Saipan, were William Michels Jr., son of U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. William Michels, 4th Marine Division; John Padley, son of Capt. John Jack Padley, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment; and



ANITA HOFSCHEIDER

Indigenous peoples from more than two dozen Pacific nations and territories shared their weaving, tattoo creations, films, visual art, wood carvings, dances, songs, literature, music, food, and other expressions of Indigenous culture in the 13th Festival of Pacific Island Arts and Culture in Hawaii.

istential threat. In Kiribati, Kabutaulaka said, taro is a key source of food and cultural celebrations, but sea level rise and resulting saltwater intrusion into islands' freshwater lens, is making it harder to grow the starch. Forced relocation is another ongoing problem. Just two weeks ago, Papua New Guinea was the site of a deadly landslide that buried a village. Climate change will make such extreme weather events more common, forcing villages to relocate and severing Indigenous Pacific peoples' connection to their ancestral lands.

The festival is also happening as island nations continue to deal with the ongoing effects of colonialism. New Caledonia's delegation pulled out at the last minute after France's efforts to push through a referendum that

would dilute Indigenous voting power prompted protests and violence.

Last Friday, the festival featured a roundtable discussion on climate change featuring political leaders from Palau and the Federated State of Micronesia. On Sunday, local activists are speaking on militarization and environmental justice, and the connections between Hawaii and Palestine.

Kabutaulaka is also helping to organize an academic event called Protecting Oceania that will include discussions of climate change, deep sea mining, mental health, and other issues. "It grapples with the idea of protection, what we are trying to protect, and how we are protecting it," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From page 1

During a special committee meeting last week, House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster-Related Funding vice chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) brought up a request for subpoenas duces tecum/testificandum against the heads and employees of nonprofit organizations Second Wind, Women of Destiny, COVID Care Force Micronesia, and One Marianas Initiative.

Collectively, these nonprofits received \$1.1 million from ARPA (mostly through the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Program, or BOOST Program) with no return of investments to show for it. In addition, some of the nonprofits have since been dissolved.

Flores, in comments made during the special meeting, asked the body to pull documents from the CNMI Depart-

ment of Homeland Security as it was the department tasked with dispersing the funds to the COVID Care Force Micronesia

"As we know, Homeland was the pass-through entity we had to use in regards to these monies being appropriated. Homeland was the recipient of a lot of these funds, as they were completing the taskforce to combat the COVID crisis. I paid a visit to Homeland and I understand that some of their documents were gathered by an agency that is currently conducting audits. May I request that we gather some documents from Homeland because there are invoices that are yet to be paid under the COVID Care Force Micronesia through DHS homeland security. If we can make that connection, I think it'll be more than just the Covid Care Force, but also possibly the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and those under Homeland at that time," she said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Second Wind and Women of Destiny (both represented by Grace Sablan Vaiaage) collectively received \$700,000 in ARPA funds (both BOOST and non-BOOST related) and have since been dissolved as of this year.

Meanwhile, both COVID Care Force Micronesia and One Marianas Initiative received \$250,000 through BOOST with allegedly nothing to show of it.

COVID Care Force Micronesia is represented by Kevin C. Guerrero and James Michael Petite while One Marianas Initiative is represented by James Michael Petite and Ivan Mereb.

Aside from pulling documents from Homeland Security in relation to these ARPA funds, Propst also asked that bank records of these nonprofits be subpoenaed and that updated records from Finance be provided to the body pursuant to this investigation.

David Knisley, son of Pfc. Richard O. Knisley, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment.

Michels said, "So 80 years later, I figured this is the right time to come and honor my father and meet the people and be thankful for them. Because I think I feel a great warmth and welcoming from the people who are here and I feel so honored to be part of this historic vacation. This is just an amazing event that I if I had known, I would have planned it for five years but I'm here now."

Meanwhile, John Padley finds it meaningful in doing the reenactment, "that was very meaningful coming in on that boat. You know out from near the reef, coming into the beach was very moving, very thought-provoking to remember to think about what those men and my dad were thinking and experienced when they came in here 80 years ago and in right into the jaws of death," he said.

Knisley, meanwhile, was saddened by today's generation not remembering the Battle of Saipan and Tinian that much. "We didn't have any

KICK OFF

From page 1

Tinian, and tied the event with the upcoming 78th anniversary of the liberation of the Northern Marianas' Indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people from the post war camp, Camp Susupe.

The opening ceremony that took place was not only attended by residents, tourists, and local dignitaries, but also visiting World War II veteran families, and foreign media outlets here for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian. Both the Liberation Day and 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian committees made sure to recognize and honor these guests with a special table and dinner during the event. The guests were also able to stroll, enjoy, and partake of the many food, drinks, and merchandise vendors were peddling.

This year's artwork, made to match the 2024 CNMI Liberation Day theme "Honoring memories from the past with moments of today" was also unveiled at the ceremony. The piece depicted the NMI of long ago and NMI in the present, with a singular latte stone connecting the two. Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho shared that the artwork was done by one of his staff, Ken Camacho.

In his special remarks, Camacho not only shared his gratitude to the Liberation Day committee and the 80th Battle of Saipan and Tinian Anniversary committee for the successful start of the month's

kids. I will pass this experience on the best I can to my nephews. It just seems unfortunate that the much younger generation don't have I want to say the interest. You know it's sad because we should remember everything that happened, otherwise if we don't remember, history can repeat itself and none of us want that," said Knisley.

The commemoration continued at 9am at the American Memorial Park with a parade, remarks, and a wreath-laying ceremony. KKMP's Gary Sword served as the master of ceremony.

The highlight of the program at the American Memorial Park's ceremony started at 10am with the Department of Public Safety's posting of colors, an invocation from Fr. Jesse Reyes, and the singing of the U.S. and CNMI national anthems by the Marianas Trench.

"Today we come together in front of this court of honor beside the Marianas memorial to once again carry out the intentions of the forefathers of our Commonwealth to never forget what happened on this

island 80 years ago," said National Parks Service superintendent Barbara Alberti on her welcoming remarks.

It was followed with special remarks from Keone Nakoa, deputy assistant secretary of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.

Mark Hashimoto then commended distinguished speaker Don Farrell, "As I told you when my mention of this piece of history is met with a clear level of awareness. It also started a conversation about a possible similar contribution in support of the Marine Corps assault on Tinian, which began on July 24, 1944 and for this information, I'm indebted to uncle Don Farrell. Don you've always been so graceful with your time contributed so much to my understanding of this region's history, you are in fact, a true national treasure," said the retired major general and executive director of Marine Forces Pacific in his honorary address.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

festivities, but added that with teamwork, a lot can be done in the community.

"This island, now, is no longer just Chamorro and Carolinian. This island is a real diverse community. Many young generations were born here and don't know much about it," said Camacho, "Our generation was born in here and don't have that much knowledge about the Battle of Saipan and the time when our parents, grandparents, and our great-grandparents were liberated from Camp Susupe."

He shared that remembering was important, but also teaching and sharing with others the CNMI's history was also equally important.

Camacho said there was still much work to be done but he feels confident that together, the CNMI can do it.

"As a mayor for this municipality... we are stronger if we all work together... there's a lot of pressing issues that are affecting all of us here in the CNMI, but we're the type of people that can stand and rise because we all work together. This is what we need to continue in this community, working together. I'll bet you that there's nothing impossible if we all work together, regardless where you came from and how you treat this place, and if you treat this place as home, let's all work together as one people," he said.

Nakisha Celis, 2024 Liberation Day Queen candidate, told *Saipan Tribune* that so far, just being involved, she has personally learned so much about history, especially during the Battle of Saipan and Tinian ceremony

that morning.

"It was really inspiring. From all the speeches I heard, there was some stuff that I didn't know about, and I'm glad that I learned about it because it's my culture and history too and the others as well."

Trisha Ramangmou, a resident of Susupe, also shared with *Saipan Tribune* her thoughts on the event. "This event is very much honoring our history. It really resembles the past and how it progressed from then until now, showing how we can all come together to really appreciate and honor everyone and everything that has made us what we are today. I really do think because in order to keep the island alive, the people alive, you should also keep your culture and history alive. too. To represent and to tell others our story, even the ones that may not be part of your culture," she said.

In a conversation with Delbert Pua, chairman of this year's Liberation Day committee under the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, he shared it was rewarding to see the event come together, and thanked the committee for their hard work, as well as the government agencies, private sector, and community members that made the event possible.

Pua shared that he hopes through the event, many will walk away with a better understanding of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian and the liberation from Camp Susupe.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Rep. Ogo announces bid for reelection

ROTA—Rep. Julie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota) has officially announced her bid for reelection to continue serving the people of Rota in the upcoming 2024 general elections.

Since taking office, Ogo has been a dedicated public servant committed to advocating for the interests and needs of her constituents. Her unwavering dedication, as chairwoman of the CNMI 23rd House of Representatives Standing Committee on Commerce

and Tourism and improving economic opportunities for all residents of Rota and the CNMI has earned her widespread support and respect leading to her final decision to seek reelection.

“I am proud to announce my candidacy for reelection as your representative. Over the past term, we have made progress despite the economic challenges we are

facing today. Some of my legislative proposals are still being refined through various communications with stakeholders, the legal team, and legislative committees to ensure their effectiveness in achieving their ultimate objectives. However, for those interested in reviewing my legislative work, please don’t hesitate to call my office and request electronic copies of the legislation status board used in my office to track their progress.



Ogo

There is much more work to be done, and I am committed to continuing to fight for the issues that matter most to the people of Rota and CNMI,” said Ogo.

Throughout her tenure, Ogo has been a strong voice on all issues affecting the people of Rota in the legislature. She works tirelessly, including meeting with various groups and individuals outside of her legislative work and often late into the night and through the weekends to address critical issues facing the community and championing policies that promote inclusivity, equity, and progress.

As she enters the reelection

campaign, Ogo looks forward to engaging with constituents, hearing their concerns, and sharing her vision for a brighter future for all residents of Rota. A face-to-face campaign is ongoing throughout villages on Rota. The underlying theme of her reelection is to encourage the community to engage in active dialogues and arrive at solutions together. “I would like to see the people of Rota, once described by my elders, as fully involved, full of pride, and united to protect their values and environment. I believe that this atmosphere of unity will spill over to the leadership of Rota and achieve greater

things together—“UNIFY FOR PROGRESS”—that has become my campaign slogan for the upcoming election.”

Despite the differences in political ideology, Representative Ogo believes that the most commonality they share is that the Rota leadership members are all “Gilitas” and love their people, island, and unique way of life.

For more information about Ogo’s work, visit her official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/repjulieogo>

Campaign page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/joejPNUz4CpoMuFU/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>. (PR)

CNMI DOL reminds businesses of CNMI law

The CNMI Department of Labor is reminding the business community that there must be timely communication with the CNMI DOL and their affected employees should they undergo a reduction in force or business closure. This requirement is outlined in § 80-20.1-240.

Businesses planning a Reduction in Force or closure must submit written notices to the Office of Administrative Services at 1356 Mednilla St. in Capitol Hill. This notice must be provided at least 60 days prior to the planned RIF or closure. Affected employees must receive written notices at least 30 days in advance of the RIF or closure.

It is imperative that all businesses adhere to these requirements to ensure compliance with CNMI labor laws and to provide adequate time for employees to prepare for the transition. Failure to comply with

these regulations may result in penalties and legal consequences. The CNMI Department of Labor is committed to supporting both businesses and employees through these transitions and ensuring that all actions are conducted fairly and transparently.

For additional information or to submit your notices, please contact the Office of Administrative Services at building 1356 on Capitol Hill. You may also reach out to us by phone at (670) 664-3196 or email info@dol.gov.mp for further assistance.

The CNMI Department of Labor is dedicated to promoting and protecting the welfare of the workforce in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Through enforcement of labor laws, the department ensures fair labor practices and fosters a positive working environment for all. (PR)

» Regarding Reduction in Force, closure of business



JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY
CNMI STATE LIBRARY
P.O. Box 501092 CK, 2745 Insatto Street, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-7322/23 or 7315 • Fax: (670) 235-7550
Website: <http://www.cnmilibrary.org> | Email: cnmistatelibrary@gmail.com



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP24-JKPL -42400099:
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR JKPL SOLAR PV PARKING STRUCTURE PROJECT
SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST JULY 10, 2024

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (JKPL), under the auspices of the Office of the Governor, is soliciting sealed proposals for the design of a Parking Structure with Solar Photovoltaics (PV) Lighting System, also known as a solar car parking structure, on the west side of the main facility. Funding for this project was made available through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Office through US Congressional Earmarking Funds.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **June 11, 2024** online at Vendor Self Service at selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids.

A **Pre-Proposal Conference** will be held at the JKPL Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan at **10:00 AM on ChST June 25, 2024**. Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted via email to Mrs. Erlinda C. Naputi, Library Director, at ecnaputi@gmail.com no later than **4:00 PM ChST July 2, 2024**. All questions & answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.


Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than **10:00 AM ChST July 10, 2024**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Erlinda C. Naputi, Library Director
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
Division of Procurement Services



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Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-004-24

• CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-01
• CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-02
• CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-03

• CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-04
• CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-05
• CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier’s check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Attorney for Petitioner Antonio B. Cabrera

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:

Civil Action
No. 24-0125 CV

MARIA CONCEPCION
CABRERA,

NOTICE OF HEARING
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent.

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS
OF: MARIA CONCEPCION CABRERA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Antonio B. Cabrera for the issuance of letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 27th day of June, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 505335, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 287-1973 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, **MARIA CONCEPCION CABRERA**, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 30th day of May, 2024.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Jan Christian S. Cabrera
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Name: Lani A. Barcinas
Address: P.O. Box 503 Tinian, MP 96952
Phone: 670-433-7676

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of
the Petition for the
Appointment of General
Guardianship for:

FCD-GU CIVIL
ACTION NO.
24-0164

Randall Jake
A. Barcinas
Minor Child(ren)

NOTICE OF
HEARING

By:


Lani A. Barcinas
Petitioner(s)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on **July 19, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. at the Tinian Courthouse**, before Associate Judge **Kenneth L. Govendo**.


Dated this 12th day of June, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Jan Christian S. Cabrera
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



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Website: www.cnmiports.com



Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
Request for Proposals
for: CPA-RFP-006-24

CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-12
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-13


The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-006-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.


Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier’s check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-005-24

CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-09
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier’s check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Note to Biden on inflation: It's the Big Macs, stupid

Democrats flummoxed over why Americans are so down on the economy should visit a McDonald's. President Joe Biden faces many hurdles in his re-election bid. His approval numbers are historically low. His open-border policies have progressive mayors in many self-proclaimed "sanctuary cities" begging for relief. His foreign policy blunders led to the debacle in Afghanistan. His physical and mental decline are ever more obvious.

That daunting list doesn't include one of his biggest problems. Voters don't like this economy—specifically inflation. But the president consistently refuses to acknowledge higher prices are a problem.

Time magazine recently published an interview with Biden. Its reporters noted cumulative inflation has increased prices by 18% since he took office.

"Since who took office? Since I took office?" the president asked. He then said, "Wage increases have exceeded what the cost of inflation, which you're talking about as the prices that were pre-COVID prices.

"Pre-COVID prices are not the same as whether or not they—you have American, corporate America ripping off the public now. You have everything from shrinkflation to what's going on in terms of the way in which they're artificially moving significantly to increase their, their, their, their profits. That's not the same as inflation. That's price gouging."

Even if you get lost trying to decipher Biden's ramblings, his downplaying of inflation is a slap in the face to Americans struggling to pay for basic staples at the grocery store. Many politicians rely on rhetorical sleight-of-hands or outright deceptions when put in a tough spot. What Biden is demonstrating, however, is that it's a mistake to tell people that what's right in front of them isn't really there.

Yes, inflation has cooled from its high of 9%. But prices remain far higher than when this president took the Oval Office. Restaurant food has gotten particularly expensive.

FinanceBuzz recently looked at increases in fast-food prices since 2014. Wendy's, Chick-fil-A and Burger King prices are all up 55%. Taco Bell is up 81%. McDonald's prices have doubled. The vast majority of those price increases happened after 2019. Undoubtedly, COVID played a role in some price spikes. But they're hard to miss.

A Big Mac cost \$3.99 in 2014. Today, it's \$5.99. Medium fries were \$1.59 a decade ago. Now, they're \$3.79. The Quarter Pounder with cheese meal went from \$5.39 to \$11.99. Little wonder many families have concluded that fast food is a luxury good. Biden's economic happy talk can't convince them otherwise.

James Carville once quipped, "It's the economy, stupid." That's true today with a slight twist: It's the Big Macs, stupid.



Biology does not a father make

The "Father of our Country," George Washington, was ironically not himself a father—not a biological one anyway. He was a stepfather and raised two of his stepgrandchildren, one of whom was named after him. With his stepchildren/grandchildren and many nieces and nephews, he relished his large family and domestic life.

At 17, his stepdaughter Patsy Custis died of a seizure in his arms, and he never recovered from it. Since she was 2, he had brought her up. He was her father.

Five years ago, we welcomed a foster daughter, Zoe (not her real name), who was 4 and a half when she came to live with us. Fifteen minutes after coming into our home she tried to strangle our golden retriever. Things only got worse from there.

What had happened with Zoe's biological mother was unspeakable, and Zoe had been severely and extremely detrimentally impacted by her abuse.

But what had not happened with her biological father, Mark (not his real name), was terribly damaging. He simply was not there, for any reason, at any time. His sole contribution, other than his sperm, was viewing her once in the newborn nursery and, unfortunately, signing his name on her birth certificate.

When Zoe was taken away from her mother, Mark was living in a condemned hotel room with his new girlfriend. The girlfriend had two older children, as well as a toddler and a baby by him, and was expecting another baby (his) in a few months.

As the stated goal of foster care is "reuniting the child with his or her biological family," Mark necessarily factored into Zoe's foster care plan. Accordingly, she would now be spending two and a half hours with him, two or three times a week.

It is an untrue adage "there are no free lunches."

As Mark did not work, he was available anytime to be picked up by an agency driver and driven to a restaurant for a long, free lunch with Zoe and her case worker. These bi- or triweekly lunch arrangements were more than amenable to him.

And they were absolutely heavenly to Zoe, who was uncontrollably jubilant upon returning from their outings. Her father, before a total stranger, was now "Daddy."

Surely, though, wasn't that better than returning from the mandated supervised visits with her mother, with Zoe invariably violent or hysterical?

No! Both parents were detrimental to Zoe's mental health. To see her reeling from one extreme to the other was heartbreaking.

There is much, much more to this story. Every day Zoe was with us was both difficult and heartrending. As we discovered more about her past and how much help she would need to recover from it, we realized the inadequacy of the foster care

By AMY LOCKARD
The Fulcrum

Amy Lockard is an Iowa resident who regularly contributes to regional newspapers and periodicals. She is working on the second of a four-book fictional series based on Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice."



system when it came to handling the tragic possibilities of parents who cannot or do not parent their children. We also learned first-hand of the heroes working in these programs: underpaid, overworked and yet somehow tireless.

Zoe's story has a happy ending. After years of paperwork and hearings, she was adopted by a wonderful family. They are perfect for her, and she for them.

After leaving the "system," she never saw her "father" again.

There is a desperate need for foster care in this country. The statistics are harrowing: Foster children average 8.3 moves between different homes before they age out of the system. Eighty percent of them exhibit mental health issues. More than one-fifth of the prison population has experienced foster care, and it factors majorly into every societal blight, from drug addiction to human trafficking. In the United States, 400,000 children are now in foster care, many of them homeless. Terrible circumstances, in critical need of attention and solutions.

And beneath it all is the crux of the problem: the essential need for parents to parent.

So, happy Father's Day to fathers and stepfathers everywhere, who take their "job" seriously, who make it their mission to care for the children in their sphere, who show up for the umpteenth double-header or dentist appointment, bandage the neighbor kid's knee, pay for camps and colleges, who take in foster children.

Happy Father's Day as well to all the mentors and coaches, the teachers and leaders, who help along the way, nurturing and encouraging children, who inspire by setting a good example, who fill the gaps.

John F. Kennedy, our 35th president, took office 181 years after our first president. And the world changed dramatically. Yet, the truth of this quote by Kennedy never changes: "Children are the world's most valuable resource, and our best hope for the future."

Washington would certainly have agreed.

Should the US increase its nuclear arsenal?

Is it time for the United States to increase its nuclear weapons stockpile? To arms control advocates, this is a distastefully, irresponsible question. But it isn't coming out of nowhere: Last week, a senior U.S. national security official left the door open to the first expansion of the U.S. nuclear warhead arsenal since the 1980s.

On Friday, Pranay Vaddi, a senior director of the National Security Council, outlined the Biden administration's nuclear strategy during a speech at the Arms Control Association in Washington. The speech wasn't surprising to anyone who has even a cursory understanding of U.S. nuclear weapons policy. Most of it was dedicated toward reiterating U.S. policy goals: getting more countries to decrease their nuclear arsenals, even as the U.S. ensures its own nuclear deterrent is updated. But the warning was as clear as day. "Absent a change in the trajectory of adversary arsenals," Vaddi said, "we may reach a point in the coming years where an increase from current deployed numbers is required."

Since the mid-1980s, successive U.S. administrations, Republican and Democratic, have largely based the country's nuclear weapons policy on two pillars: capping and if possible reducing nuclear arsenals across the board and making sure America's own is functional. U.S. officials have sought to discourage ad-

versaries from attacking the U.S. and its treaty allies in Europe and Asia even as it gradually aspires toward a world in which nuclear weapons no longer exist. The proof is in the numbers: Since 1967, the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile has decreased by 88%, from 31,255 warheads to 3,750.

Yet in the eyes of U.S. officials in Washington, the state of affairs in the world is getting increasingly hairy. The kinds of arms control negotiations that were so prevalent since the latter years of the Cold War are all but dead. New START, the last major arms control accord signed between the U.S. and Russia, is essentially on life support after Russian President Vladimir Putin suspended it in 2023.

If anything, the war in Ukraine has only elevated the importance and value of nuclear weapons for Putin. With Russia's conventional military battered and bruised, Russia's strategic weapons systems are becoming much more important in Russian defense strategy. Moscow has not only moved tactical nuclear warheads to Belarus, next door to Ukraine, but also is pouring resources into diversifying its nuclear arms by adding more delivery systems. The Poseidon, a nuclear-armed intercontinental torpedo, is now one of Putin's most cherished weapons systems. (Whether it actually works is another story.) According to the U.S. intelligence community, Russia is also testing components for a space-based nuclear anti-satellite weapon, which if used could wipe out hundreds of low-orbited satellites.

Russia is hardly the only country the U.S. is concerned about on this front. China is doubling down on its nuclear arsenal to strengthen its own deterrent power. The Pentagon's most recent report analyzing Chinese military capabilities finds that "over the next decade, the PRC (China) will continue to rapidly modernize, diversify, and expand its nuclear forces." China will have more than 1,000 operational nuclear warheads by 2030 — double its current arsenal.

And although Beijing continues to claim a "no first use" policy—i.e., China won't be the first power to use a nuclear weapon under any circumstances—policies can change depending on the environment. Indeed, Chinese military documents leave open the prospect of junking this declaration in the event the Chinese People's Liberation Army is at risk of losing a conventional war.

This is all quite concerning to U.S. officials, amplified by the fact that the United States has so many allies it has sworn to

By **DANIEL DEPETRIS**

Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



defend. Our extended deterrence commitments, in which Washington would theoretically escalate to the nuclear level to fight off an adversary who has attacked a U.S. ally, include most of Europe, Japan, South Korea and Australia. Extended deterrence, however, is a difficult promise to make credible: Would any U.S. president use nuclear weapons, for example, against Russia, China or even North Korea to defend an ally knowing that doing so would likely put American cities at risk of nuclear annihilation? Would the U.S. even fight a nuclear-armed country in these circumstances, knowing full well that a strictly conventional conflict could escalate to nuclear war?

President Joe Biden's administration has apparently calculated that a larger U.S. nuclear arsenal is the cure-all to these problems. The underlying logic is straightforward: By increasing warhead numbers, nuclear adversaries such as China and Russia will eventually come to the conclusion that they simply can't outcompete the U.S. in this area and that throwing more money into a costly arms race is futile. If this sounds familiar, that's because it is; part of the rationale behind the military buildup in the 1980s by Ronald Reagan's administration was to bleed the Soviet Union financially.

There's a cheaper and less risky way of accomplishing what the Biden administration wants to accomplish. But this would require U.S. officials to be self-reflective and recognize that adversary perceptions of U.S. motivations are driving much of Russia and China's nuclear modernization. Russia, for instance, is compensating for its conventional struggles in Ukraine and views nuclear weapons as absolutely essential to combating what it sees (rightly or wrongly) as U.S. attempts to weaken it over the long term. China, in part, is embracing nuclear expansion to scare the U.S. away from defending Taiwan if Beijing decides to subjugate the island militarily.

A larger U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal is likely to heighten those threat perceptions, not eliminate them.

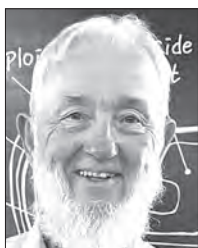
Between the immensities

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



MY OLD MAN'S SPIRIT and SPIRITS

My father whose heart and spirit are up in heaven
leave all your mistakes down somewhere in hell
on this day to honor you for all your hard work
there's no need on any of your bad deeds to dwell
you drank too much and whipped your older sons
while on both your hands was hard work callouses
you dug many a deep muddy cold ditch you SOB
and you never got rich building other men's palaces
many times, with my weekly allowance of a quarter
you were a day late and a nickel or dime short
eventually you made it up so good news to report
you worked hard and drank hard stuff like whiskey
very rarely a glass of wine or a cold bottle of beer
we knew when you yelled it was time to steer clear
dear Father some days I know you're down in limbo
but some days you're back up in a deer filled heaven
you will always be my strict Daddy, father of five
who did a good job raising your family of seven.

MY OLD MAN

(An Irish song by Phil Coulter check online to hear this sung by Finbar Furey)

The tears have all been shed now
we've said our last goodbyes
His soul's been blessed and he's laid to rest
It's now I feel alone He was more than just a father
A teacher my best friend He can still be heard in the
tunes we shared when I play them on my own
As a boy he'd take me walking by mountain field
and stream He'd show me things Not known to kings
Still secret between him and me Like the colors of a
pheasant as he rises in the dawn and how to fish
and make a wish beside a Holly tree.

Chorus:

[No, I never will forget him He made me "what I am"
And he may be gone Memories linger on (and on)
And I miss him...the old man]

Sure I thought he'd live forever He seemed so big and
strong The minutes fly And the years roll by For a father
and a son And suddenly when it happened There was so
much left unsaid No second chance To tell him thanks
For everything he's done. (repeat Chorus).

So what if Gen Z applicants bring their parents to a job interview?

Bring your parent to school, bring your child to work, bring your mother to a job interview.

That last one may stick out as odd, but it is apparently a growing phenomenon in the workforce. A recent study indicates that as much as 25% of Generation Z job applicants have brought a parent with them to a job interview in the past year.

The image may seem ridiculous. But there's a clear path that led us here.

Let's start with employers saying younger applicants are unprepared. That should not be altogether surprising given the havoc the pandemic played on the world's education system and the lives of young people during formative years. The ramifications stemming from years of interruption in learning and social development are beginning to show up in the workforce.

Last fall, when I started teaching a college class, it took weeks for me to get my students to make eye contact and speak in class to one another—and some of them want a career in communication. I've spoken to friends who are also educators, and they have seen the same.

Which is why some young people would opt to bring a familiar face into an unfamiliar setting. And in some cases, they'll choose the only adults they interacted with in person while we were sheltered in place: their parents. The image doesn't seem so ridiculous when you think about it like that. Because of the applicant's understandable social awkwardness—anxiety, avoiding eye contact—the presence of a parent can bring reassurance. That doesn't mean the young person can't do the job without Mom or Dad. It means that job interviews are stressful. It means the pandemic's full toll is still becoming apparent.

What we have been experiencing in this post-pandemic world is a cultural shift in labor that is redefining what it means to work. Now society is welcoming into this uncertain world of work young people who didn't get a chance to decipher human interaction like everyone else because they spent so much time isolated and worse: on social media.

Sure, bringing your dad to a job interview is unusual. But what exactly about the past four years screams "usual"? We just went through a once-in-a-century pandemic during which

By **LZ GRANDERSON**

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



children couldn't see their friends and parents couldn't find work or toilet paper.

The weirdness isn't all distant memory. About a month ago, there was a strip of the country that experienced 100 tornadoes in a week. No wonder Gen Z's No. 1 issue is climate change. The weather can't capture much attention though because even 100 tornadoes isn't the strangest news. We're all pretty distracted by the felon running for president.

So again, what has been normal about the times in which today's young adults have come of age?

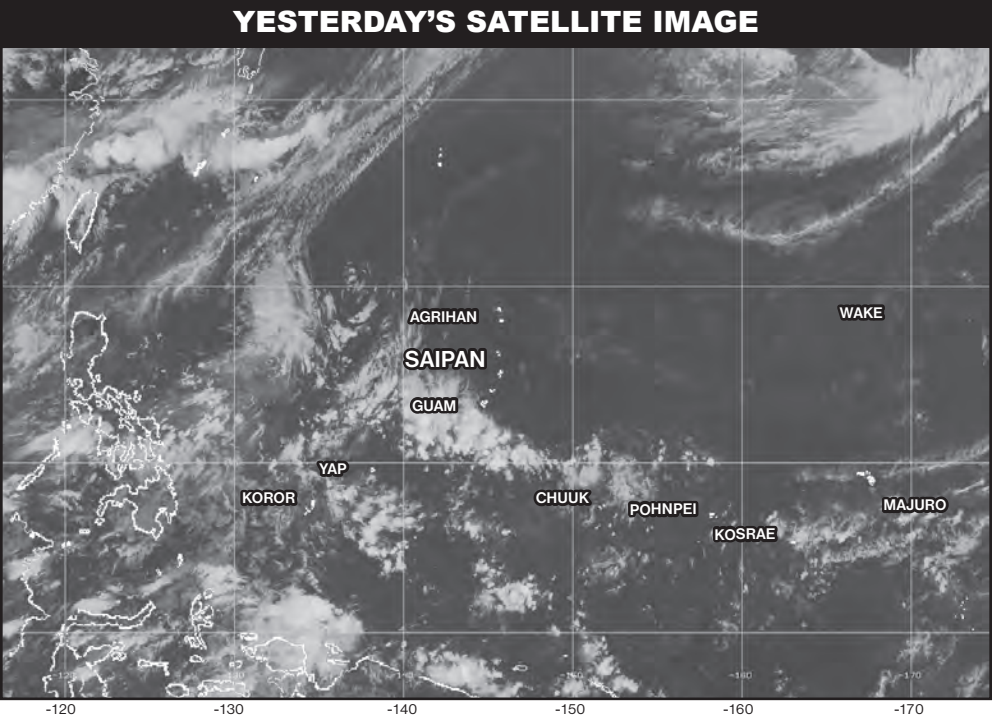
Perhaps instead of ridicule—which I've seen a lot of in response to the reports about parents being brought to interviews—why don't we try some compassion?

Between 2018 and 2022 the math and reading scores of 15-year-olds fell by 15% and 10%, respectively. That most likely means many of today's high school seniors are still playing catch-up. Not because they are entitled or have poor work habits but because at the age when they were supposed to be learning to adult, they were watching the world go to hell.

The narrative that Gen Z is immature is unfair for singling out this bloc, but not entirely wrong about young people in general, throughout history. It's a legal fiction to imagine adulthood begins for everyone on their 18th birthday. In reality the prefrontal cortex—the part of the brain that handles decision-making—doesn't fully mature until 25. Maybe mentoring is needed instead of mocking. Because in the big picture there are worse ways to emerge from a chaotic childhood than needing a parent for reassurance at some early stressful moments.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°



PICTURE TIME: 4:05 AM SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery is showing mostly cloudy skies across the Marianas. Scattered showers are seen near Guam, with mainly isolated showers for the CNMI. Latest altimetry passes and Ritidian buoy are showing combined seas of 4 to 6 feet. Gentle to moderate winds prevail.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 81°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°	
Chuuk	Cloud	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Cloud	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Cloudy	87° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:46 AM	2:33 PM
Tuesday	-	2:22 AM	3:22 PM
Wednesday	-	3:01 AM	4:16 PM
Thursday	-	3:45 AM	5:13 PM
Friday	-	4:35 AM	6:12 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	65° / 50°	
Beijing	Fair	91° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	84° / 74°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°	
London	Rain	63° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	94° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
New York	Clear	81° / 66°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84° / 69°	
Paris	Rain	66° / 52°	
Busan	Rain	73° / 61°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	81° / 69°	
San Francisco	Clear	71° / 53°	
Seoul	Sunny	84° / 64°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	84° / 69°	
Washington, DC	Fair	85° / 69°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:26 AM	High Tide	1.94	
10:42 AM	Low Tide	0.53	
5:25 PM	High Tide	1.59	
10:05 PM	Low Tide	1.23	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	

ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily	
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily	
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily	
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.						
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024						
SAIPAN TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily	
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily	
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday	
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday	
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday	
GUAM TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily	
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily	
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily	
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily	
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily	
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily	
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily	
TINIAN TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily	
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily	
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily	
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily	
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily	
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily	
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily	

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Perez introduces bill to boost affordable housing in Guam

HAGÂTNÂ, Guam—Senator Sabina Perez introduced a new legislative proposal aimed at significantly enhancing affordable housing opportunities for the people of Guam by appropriating \$1 million from to the Guam Housing Corp.’s Housing Trust Fund.

Bill 309-37 comes following a substantial increase of revenues and projected increase of \$4 million in Section 30 over FY2024, that provides additional funding towards for families seeking homeownership or other assistance and mitigates long-standing issues with Guam’s housing sector, including the rising costs of construction materials, skilled labor shortages and an increasingly competitive market that often overlooks the needs of low-to moderate-income families.

With GHC revenues declining and the housing inventory becoming less affordable, many residents find themselves unable to purchase their first home. This Bill 309-37 aims to bolster GHC’s capacity to administer and expand essential programs that provide much-needed affordable housing solutions.

The funds are intended to serve as seed capital for authorized housing programs, ensuring that resources are available to support community members who are most in need yet are currently ineligible for assistance from other housing entities. “This approach highlights the bill’s dedication to tackling economic disparities in housing, enhancing community welfare, and providing tangible solutions to ongoing challenges in Guam’s housing market,” Perez said. **(PR)**

VARO will host 3rd Annual Purple Gala: Gupot CHamoru Fotmât

Victim Advocates Reaching Out, or VARO, is thrilled to announce its highly anticipated 3rd Annual Purple Gala, set to take place on Oct. 12, 2024, 6pm at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Grand Ballroom. This year’s theme, “Gupot CHamoru Fotmât” (A Formal CHamoru Party/Celebration) aims to highlight the unity and resilience of the CHamoru community.

The Purple Gala is VARO’s signature event and our highest grossing fundraising effort, crucial for supporting victims of domestic violence, abuse, rape, and other traumatic events. The funds raised enable us to continue offering vital services and support to those in need.

As always, the Purple Gala promises an evening of inspiring and uplifting stories, raffle prizes, entertainment, and new memories. This year, we are also seeking donations for raffle drawings to be held throughout the night. Your generous contributions can help make a significant impact and provide much-needed support to our community.



Seats are limited, and we anticipate a sold-out event. We encourage you to secure your tickets early and consider supporting this vital cause through sponsorship and/or donations.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or to donate raffle items, please contact us at (671) 477-5552.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of unity, support, and celebration of the CHamoru spirit.

About VARO

VARO is dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence, abuse, rape, and other traumatic events. Through comprehensive support services, advocacy, and community education, we strive to empower individuals and create a safer, more resilient community. VARO is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-026

CUSTOMIZED SEWER LINE INSPECTION & GROUTING TRUCK ACQUISITION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Vendors for the Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The IFB Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-24-026, Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 3, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.



All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this IFB should consider all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the proponent’s obligation upon award of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC’s Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said IFB, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-24-024

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA’s ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC’s Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-24-024, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota’s Administrative Functions and Operations.”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 12, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.



All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 21, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal, in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN C. MAFNAS
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-24-022

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers’ compensation insurance and administration for CUC’s employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-24-022, Workers’ Compensation Insurance & Administration”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer’s preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Francisco Matsunaga, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC’s Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Mama Rio's Cafe unveils student-friendly rice meals

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Mama Rio's Café in Garapan has introduced a bevy of student-friendly rice meals right in time when school is out this summer.

Owner Marie Rio, who the restaurant is named after, has always had a soft spot for students and it's the main reason they've come out with a rice meal menu specially catering to them.

Ranging from as low as \$7 to \$8.50, the tasty and definitely homemade rice bowl meals include fish fillet, lumpia shanghai, longganisa with egg, pork tocino with egg, beef tapa with egg, pork barbecue with egg, chicken teriyaki, buffalo wings, sweet and sour pork, and hamburger steak.

"I love it when I see students gather here to do projects or school works. It feels good to serve these kids who try their best in school. It also feels good to see customers catch up with their friends and families by comforting themselves with the place and the products we offer. It feels good to serve tourists who comes in to see the vibe inside our café and make them happy with our food and drinks. This is a good spot to close some business deals or discuss business future plans," said Rio.

Aside from the affordable rice meals, Mama Rio's



Mama Rio's Café is located in the corner of Coral Tree Avenue and Orchid Street, across Crowne Plaza Resort in Garapan.

Café also offers healthy sandwiches that comes with a side of French fries. They include tuna melt and Mama Rio's Café's signature Home Burger. Green salad, fries and nuggets, and cheese nachos are the appetizers.

Everyone's favorite noodles are also on the menu with beef and fried noodles, ramyun spicy, cheesy spaghetti, and creamy carbonara ready to be served.

"Mama Rio's Café offers homemade meals and sandwiches for you to enjoy while you hang out with your friends/families. It's a must

try!" said Rio.

As a coffee shop, of course Mama Rio's Café's morning fix and beverage lineup is nothing to sneeze at.

Just some of the unique hot and cold drinks that populate Mama Rio's Café's counter are different flavors of frappes, milk teas, fruit teas, smoothies, and pearl shakes. Recently, they've also introduced healthy beverages and fresh juices.

"Mama Rio's Café if a coffee shop that offers a very relaxing ambiance for you and your friends/family to enjoy. We take pride of our coffee. If you a coffee lover, you will definitely love our place. We also have variety of drinks in our menu for each individual's unique taste buds and preferences," said Rio.

So far, the bestsellers among their beverages are the fresh avocado latte and healthy beverages with direct-to-the-point names like Detox, Freshen Up, and Immune Booster.

"It's a fun way to be healthy. Try our own version of halo-halo, too as it's something you haven't tried before," she said.

Mama Rio's Café opened last November 2023 after taking over from the old Café

Tranquilo. The new owners then enhanced the place with Rio's personal touch.

"Now it's place you will love. It's more of a reflection of my personality. My passion for cooking for my loved ones and friends, taking in people to feel comfortable. Mama Rio's Café is not just a business, it's a home we built outside your home. This is what makes us different from any other coffee shop. Despite the current economy of Saipan, we want to be here for the community and show love for everyone," said Rio.

In a way, it's very fitting that the establishment is called Mama Rio's Café, "because every single thing from this café has my touch—the ambiance, the taste of the coffee, the drinks, especially the food. Mama Rio's Café is unique in its way of serving homemade meals, it is not commercialized. It is exactly how your mom will serve the food to you. It is served with love. It is comforting."

As for recommendation, she said everyone should try everything in their menu, but pointed out four particular items their loyal customers



Mama Rio's Café has recently introduced affordable rice meal deals ranging from \$7 to \$8.50.

can't seem to have enough of.

"One of our bestsellers for food is the Home Burger. It is called Home Burger because of its unique homemade sauce. We also take pride in our beef tapa, marinated to bring out that original pinoy delicacy and make you feel at home. You should also try the garlicky Vigan longganisa and our beef soup (our version of beef pares soup in noodles)," said Rio.

Mama Rio's Café is located in the corner of Coral Tree Av-

enue and Orchid Street, across Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. It is where the old historic Remington used to be. It is open from 10am to 9pm from Monday to Saturday and 2pm to 8pm on Sundays.

For more information or for reservations, call (670) 233-3388 or (670) 789-8119. Watch out for Mama Rio's Café's future promotions though their page on Facebook (Mama Rio's Café) and Instagram (@mamarioscafe).



Mama Rio's Café's signature Home Burger, tuna melt, and cheese nachos.



Mama Rio's Café's lineup of cold beverages.

Limited seats available for Chamber's 'Effective Communication in the Workplace' training

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the upcoming 2024 2nd Quarter Professional Development Training focused on "Effective Communication in the Workplace." This event will be led by Kevin Bautista, executive director to the president of the Northern Marianas College. The training will take place on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at TPOD 1, NMC Campus, offering

two sessions for participants' convenience: the morning session from 8:30am to 11am, and the afternoon session from 1pm to 5pm.

This training aims to equip attendees with crucial communication skills to enhance workplace productivity and success. The agenda includes:

Exploration of Fundamental Elements:

■ Covering active listening and

clarity to foster effective communication in professional environments.

Navigating Interpersonal & Mass Communication Dynamics:

■ Introducing strategies for planning and delivering impactful messages, supporting informed decision-making in both oral and written forms.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own computer or mo-

bile device to maximize the training experience.

To secure your spot at this professional development event, RSVP by visiting <https://business.saipan-chamber.com/events/details/2024-1st-quarter-professional-development-training-artificial-intelligence-461?calendarMonth=2024-03-01>. You can also contact the SCC office at (670) 234-7150 or email contac-

tus@saipanchamber.org.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization in the CNMI with a membership of 129 members and growing. SCC is committed to empowering our enterprise as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector, our vision is to create an island where businesses, family, and the community succeed as one. (PR)

Life & Style

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS WITH NBA MEDIA DEALS

Barkley says next season will be his last on TV

Charles Barkley said Friday that next season will be his last on TV, no matter what happens with the NBA's media deals.

The Hall of Fame player has spent the last 24 years working as a studio analyst for TNT, which could lose the rights to broadcast NBA after next season.

But no matter where the games end up, Barkley won't be following.

"There's been a lot of noise

around our network the last few months and I just want to say I've talked to all the other networks, but I ain't going nowhere other than TNT," Barkley said while working on NBA TV's NBA Finals post-game show.

The NBA's current deals with ABC-ESPN and Turner Sports expire after next season and the league has been talking with NBC, ESPN and Amazon, among other networks

and platforms, about what comes next. Commissioner Adam Silver said last week he hopes new long-term deals will be completed shortly.

Barkley and broadcast teammates Ernie Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal and Kenny Smith have discussed their uncertain future on their popular "Inside the NBA" studio show. Barkley would seemingly draw

interest from any network televising NBA, but the 61-year-old has decided that 25 years will be enough and he will "pass the baton," hopefully, to a TNT teammate such as Vince Carter or Jamal Crawford.

"But I have made the decision myself no matter what happens, next year is going to be my last year on television," he said. (AP)



Charles Barkley arrives at the NBA Awards on June 24, 2019, at Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif. AP

Combs returns key to NYC in response to video of him attacking singer Cassie

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs has returned his key to New York City after a request from Mayor Eric Adams in response to the release of a video showing the music mogul attacking R&B singer Cassie, officials said Saturday.

The mayor's office said Combs returned the key after Adams sent letters to the embattled musician's offices in New York and California on June 4 rescinding the key and asking for it to be sent back to City Hall. The city received the key June 10.

In his letter, Adams wrote he was "deeply disturbed" by the attack, adding "I strongly condemn these actions and stand in solidarity with all survivors of domestic and gender-based violence."

Combs' career has been derailed by numerous accusations of sexual abuse, as well

as a federal criminal sex-trafficking investigation that led to raids of Combs' mansions in Los Angeles and Miami.

In May, CNN aired security video of Combs attacking Cassie in a hotel hallway in Los Angeles in 2016. Combs has said he is "truly sorry" for the attack on Cassie and called his actions "inexcusable." Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura, sued Combs last year, setting off a wave of increased scrutiny on Combs. That case was settled a day after it was filed.

Adams awarded Combs with the key at a ceremony last year that coincided with the release of a new album.

Howard University this month rescinded an honorary degree awarded to Combs and ended a scholarship program in his name following the release of the video involving Cassie.

Biden goes straight from G7 to Hollywood fundraiser

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After flying through the night across nine time zones, from southern Italy to Southern California, President Joe Biden is shifting his focus from Russia's challenge of Western unity to raking in big money for his reelection campaign at a Hollywood fundraiser featuring George Clooney and Julia Roberts.

Biden went straight from the Group of Seven summit of wealthy democracies, where Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine took center stage, to Los Angeles and the glitzy gathering unfolding Saturday night at the Peacock Theater. The journey was only broken up by a layover to refuel outside Washington.

Former President Barack Obama is joining headliners Clooney and Roberts, and late-night host Jimmy Kimmel will interview all of them onstage. In a text message to donors beforehand,

Roberts called it "a crucial time in the election." Kimmel wrote in his own text that presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump "will hate this, so let's do it."

Luminaries from the entertainment world have increasingly lined up to help Biden's campaign, hoping to provide a fundraising jolt and to energize would-be supporters to turn out ahead of Election Day against Trump.

But hobnobbing with stars this time means Biden is skipping a summit in Switzerland about ways to end Russia's war in Ukraine. Vice President Kamala Harris is representing the United States.

It's a stark reminder that his responsibilities as president and his reelection effort can sometimes conflict.

"We are going to see an unprecedented and record-setting turnout from the media and entertainment world," Jeffrey Katzenberg, the Hollywood mogul, major



President Joe Biden, accompanied by daughter Ashley Biden, arrives on Air Force One, Saturday, June 15, 2024, in Los Angeles. AP

Democratic donor and co-chair of Biden's campaign, said in a statement.

A Biden fundraiser in March at Radio City Music Hall in New York featured late-night host Stephen Colbert interviewing the president, Obama and former President Bill Clinton. It raised a then-record \$26 million, but the California event will bring in at least \$28 million, according to the Biden campaign.

Still, Trump has hauled in

even bigger numbers.

He outpaced Biden's New York event in April, raking in \$50.5 million at a gathering of major donors at the Florida home of billionaire investor John Paulson. The former president's campaign and the Republican National Committee announced they had raised a whopping \$141 million in May, padded by tens of millions of dollars in contributions that flowed in after Trump's guilty verdict in his criminal hush money trial.

Child's crafts and gifts pile up around the house

DEAR ABBY: I have a 4-year-old daughter. She spends time at her grandma's house and does arts and crafts projects there. When my MIL drops her off, she brings the project to our house.

We enjoy seeing it for a few days, and my daughter plays with it for a few days. Then it gets added to the rest of her toys. I want to give them back to my MIL, but is it polite to send them? They are genuinely cute projects, so I don't want to throw them away, but we have too much stuff here.

This same dilemma arises with birthday and Christmas gifts. My daughter receives nice gifts, but we don't want to keep them at our house, so we've asked my MIL to keep some at her house for when my daughter visits. I think she's offended by the request.

Should we just keep the projects and gifts and eventually throw them away or donate them? Or should we be honest and ask for an alternative? I'm not sure honesty is welcomed in society anymore. Your thoughts are appreciated.

HONESTLY UNSURE

DEAR UNSURE: If Grandma wanted the toys and art projects at her house, she wouldn't be sending them home with your daughter. I do think a "truth session" is in order. The lead-in should be something like this: "Ethel, honey, we wish you would keep some of our little angel's toys at your

place so she can enjoy them while she's visiting you. These things are piling up at our place and we no longer have anywhere to put them. Would you please help us out?"

Then, shut your mouth and see how your MIL responds. If she isn't helpful or receptive, toss the stuff sooner rather than later, and pray it doesn't appreciate in value as your budding artist grows older.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I wonder what I should do about a friend ("Corinne") I knew through high school and who was a bridesmaid in my wedding. Seven years ago, my husband was diagnosed with tongue cancer and had to have a 16-hour surgery plus chemo and radiation. I called Corinne and told her about my husband's cancer and surgery, which was at a hospital three hours from our home. She sounded like she cared and was concerned, but she never called or texted me after that. She just stuck her head in the sand and offered no support while I was going through this major ordeal.

Now, another girlfriend from high school wants me to attend a lunch with her and Corinne. Should I meet them? Or should I disown Corinne as a friend? It still hurts after all these years.

WOUNDED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WOUNDED: Before "disowning" Corinne for having let you down when you needed her, go to the lunch

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



with your mutual friend and ask her why she disappeared. She may be embarrassed, but it's a fair question. Corrine's absence may have been caused by a terror of cancer and its treatment, which can be so strong that some people are afraid to seek treatment for themselves after they are diagnosed. (Years ago, I lost a wonderful friend because he treated his liver cancer "homeopathically.")

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

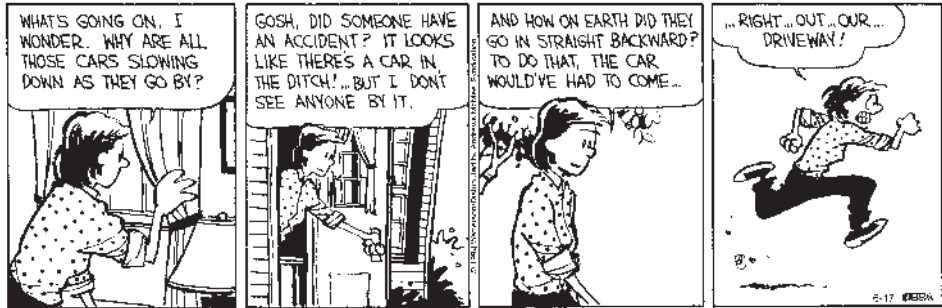
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

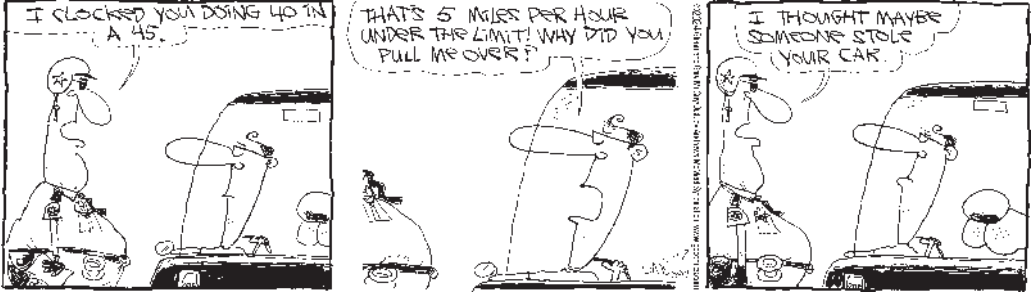


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1	Carpet type	40	Half a ton	2	Hasten	21	Diner
5	Actor	41	Canta-loupe	3	Earth Day	22	Gridlock
8	Benefit	42	Creator of Donkey Kong	4	—	23	Parkin-son's
12	Oil	47	Frozen drink	5	Behave	25	Elite
14	Skilled	48	Lost	6	Conclude	26	Actor
15	Hit song by ABBA	49	Ante-lope's	7	"Mona Lisa"	27	Venue
16	Faction	50	Feedbag	8	Long-eared	29	Equip-ment
17	Carried out	51	Undo a dele	9	Post-humous	31	Sailor
18	Made a cozy home	DOWN		10	Shoppes	33	Merchant
20	Traffic light color	1	Suntan lotion	11	Must have	34	Vacation rentals
23	Tardy	2	Hydro-carbon suffix	12	Hideaway	36	Low-calorie
24	Swerve	3	Bank ad figures	13	LAX	37	Saharan
25	Humorist	4	Musically lively	14	guesses	38	Pleasing
34	— Hari	5	Hindu deity	15	Director DuVernay	39	Elbow counter-part
35	Recluse	6	Turkey's capital	16		40	Make a sweater
37		7		17		43	Roth svgs. plan
41		8		18		44	Part of NIMBY
47		9		19		45	Expected
49		10		20		46	Mel of Coopers-town

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's answer 6-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Venus Williams, 44; Will Forte, 54; Greg Kinnear, 61; Barry Manilow, 81.

Happy Birthday: Focus on what matters most to you. Let your heart, emotions and inner voice dictate how you live and the path you choose. Make personal, financial and physical matters your priorities. Research how you can make the most of things by maintaining a fit lifestyle, investing wisely and having healthy relationships. A positive change is heading your way; embrace what life offers. Your numbers are 5, 11, 19, 26, 33, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Increase the pace and broaden your awareness. What you learn will help you put your life in perspective. Fact-check, and distance yourself from anyone offering misinformation. A passionate approach to life, love and happiness will get you moving in a direction that gratifies the soul. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Choose brain over brawn. Think and carry out a plan that is tailored to your liking. Revisit where your cash goes and how you can up your returns. Don't shy away from change or what it entails. Distance yourself from iffy situations and pushy people. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your energy to meet your goals. Initiate a change that encourages learning and developing something of interest. An offer will tempt you, but first, research and manufacture a plan that doesn't lead to debt. Listen to your intuition, not someone trying to take your cash. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Feel the love, embrace the moment and enjoy life. Take time for the pastimes and people who make you feel alive. Take a step back

from situations that make you uncomfortable or test your patience. Observation will lead to positive change. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have time to ponder what you want to do next. Refuse to let anyone pressure you into something that isn't right for you. Put your energy into self-improvement and spending time with someone who brings out your best. Promote positive domestic changes. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Reach out, chase information, and travel mentally or physically to discover new people, places and pastimes. A change can positively impact what you do next, but don't buy into something you cannot afford. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Home improvements will be costly. Do the work yourself. Researching will help you make the most of a situation that requires knowledge and skills. A chance to barter with someone with expertise you lack will pay off. Control your emotions. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your passionate attitude lead the way, and success will follow. Envision how you want things to unfold, and apply hands-on help to ensure you get what you want. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans. Build opportunities according to your specific needs. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think big, but take baby steps. Feel out situations and use persuasiveness to inch toward manifesting your objective. Protect your home and meaningful relationships from outside influences. Choose your tribe and what you contribute to carefully. Romance is in the stars. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Money and partnerships will go hand in hand. Respect and cooperation are necessary if you want to achieve your goal. A change at home will require positive energy and enthusiasm to ward off tension and stress. Don't trust someone who doesn't have a favorable track record to help. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take your time and do things right the first time, and save yourself aggravation. A sense of how you can make your surroundings functional will lead to projects that keep you occupied and help you stay out of trouble. Trust your instincts and avoid spending unnecessarily. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Change begins with you, so don't let someone else step in and take over. Put your vote of confidence, energy and cash behind your ideas, skills and vested interests instead of letting someone talk you into something costly and ineffective. Discipline and hard work will pay off. ***

Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, energetic and informative. You are compassionate and loving.

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☽: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☿: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ♀: Aim high; start new projects. ♀♀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

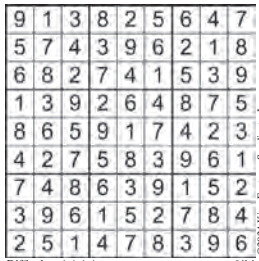
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Friday's Answer



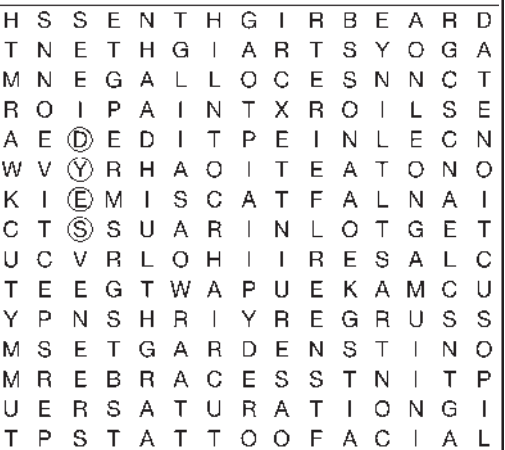
Difficulty: ★ 6/17 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES Solution: 8 letters



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Beard, Braces, Brightness, Clean, Collagen, Color, Contrast, Date, Dyes, Edit, Exposure, Facial, Gardens, Glaciers, Haircut, Hairdo, Laser, Liposuction, Makeup, Paint, Perms, Perspective, Pilates, Rainfall, Restoration, Saturation, Straighten, Surgery, Tattoo, Teeth Whitening, Tints, Tummy Tuck, Veneers, Warmth, Weight, Yoga
Last Saturday's Answer: Rewrites
Last Friday's answer: Animals
The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Orioles beat Phillies, 6-2, behind Santander's four RBIs



BALTIMORE

(AP)—Anthony Santander

homered twice and drove in four runs, and Grayson Rodriguez worked seven solid innings to lift the Baltimore Orioles to a 6-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday.

Rodriguez (8-2) allowed two runs for the Orioles, who rebounded after an 11-inning loss to Philadelphia in the series opener. Baltimore led 3-2 before Santander hit a two-run shot in the eighth. Gunnar Henderson added an RBI single later that inning.

Santander's solo homer came in the fourth, and he put the Orioles up 3-2 with a sixth-inning sacrifice fly.

Edmundo Sosa hit a solo home run for the Phillies, who scored in each of the first two innings. Taijuan Walker (3-2) yielded three runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Alec Bohm, who doubled home two runs in the 11th the previous night, opened the scoring by slicing an RBI double to the gap in right-center field. Sosa's homer made it 2-0.

Adley Rutschman hit a sacrifice fly in the third for the Orioles, and Santander's 16th homer of the season tied it at 2.

CUBS 5, CARDINALS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Shota Imanaga pitched seven effective innings and Ian Happ hit a three-run homer, helping Chicago hold off St. Louis.

Imanaga allowed one run and four hits in his second straight win. The Japanese left-hander struck out six and walked none while improving to 3-0 with a 1.31 ERA in his first seven starts at Wrigley Field.

Chicago had lost three of four and 15 of 21. It was the team's first win in four games against rival St. Louis this season.

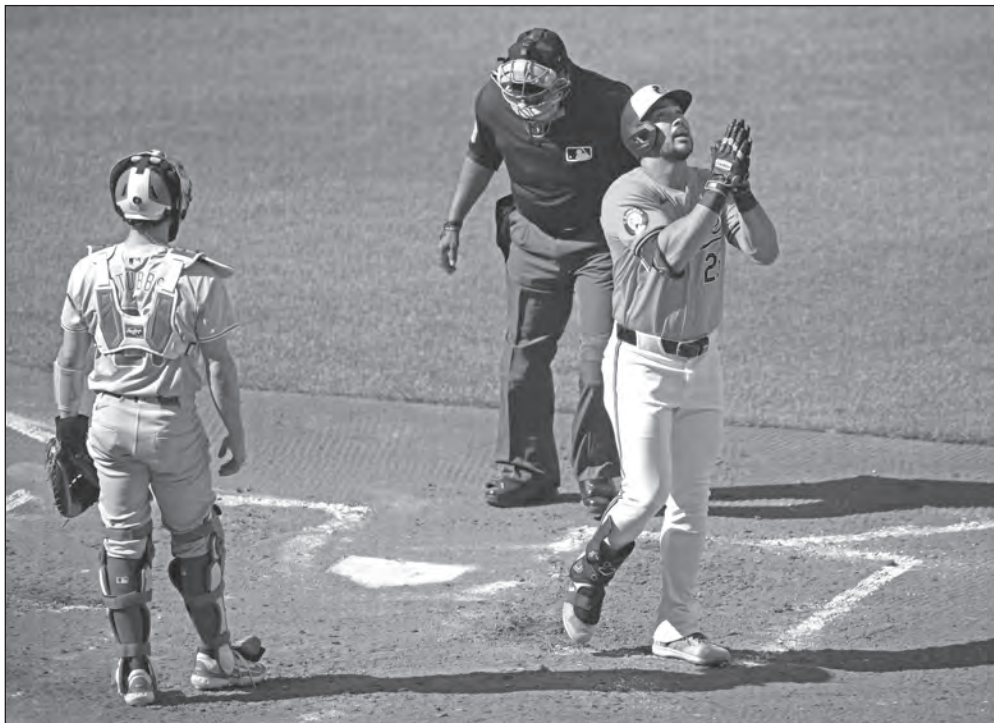
The Cardinals threatened in the seventh, putting runners on first and second with one out. But Imanaga (7-1) retired Dylan Carlson on a flyball and struck out Brendan Donovan, preserving a 2-1 lead.

BLUE JAYS 5, GUARDIANS 0

TORONTO (AP)—Six pitchers combined on an eight-hitter, George Springer scored twice and drove in a run, and Toronto beat Cleveland.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa had two hits and rookie Addison Barger had his first big league RBI for the Blue Jays, who are 26-3 when scoring five runs or more.

Opener Trevor Richards allowed one hit over 2 1/3 innings, throwing 31 pitches.



Baltimore Orioles' Anthony Santander, right, celebrates his home run past Philadelphia Phillies catcher Garrett Stubbs, left, and home plate umpire Laz Diaz, center, during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, June 15, 2024, in Baltimore.

Tim Mayza and Zach Pop got one out each, and Bowden Francis (3-2) gave up four hits—all singles—over four innings. Génesis Cabrera worked the eighth and Nate Pearson finished Toronto's fifth shutout.

NATIONALS 4, MARLINS 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—DJ Herz struck out 13 and allowed one hit over six innings for his first major league victory, combining on a four-hitter that led Washington over Miami.

Joey Meneses and Lane Thomas homered for Washington, which has won seven of eight overall and improved to 6-0 against Miami this year.

Herz (1-1), a 23-year-old left-hander who made his major league debut June 4, walked none. He struck out eight of his first 10 batters and his total was the second-highest by a rookie for the Nationals since the team moved to Washington for 2005, trailing only Stephen Strasburg's 14 in his debut on June 8, 2010.

BREWERS 3, REDS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Joey Ortiz hit a three-run homer, Bryce Wilson gave up three hits in 5 1/3 innings and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

The Reds, who had won nine of 11 games, dropped to 34-36 and missed a chance to climb back to .500 for the first time since they were 16-16 on May 3.

Jared Koenig opened for Milwaukee and pitched to three batters before Wilson (4-3) took the mound with a runner at first. Wilson walked two and struck out six. The Brewers' defense helped out with two double plays.

Bryan Hudson retired the

side in order in the seventh and eighth. Trevor Megill ran into trouble in the ninth, but recovered for his 12th save in 13 chances.

ANGELS 4, GIANTS 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Luis Rengifo hit a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning, Logan O'Hoppe hit a two-run homer and Los Angeles rallied to beat San Francisco.

With two outs in the seventh, Nolan Schanuel walked, stole his first career base and advanced to third on an error by Giants catcher Curt Casali. Rengifo broke a 3-3 tie with a two-out soft single off Ryan Walker (4-3) that scored Schanuel.

Mickey Moniak extended his hitting streak to seven games with a solo homer in the second for the Angels, a day after having three hits.

BRAVES 9, RAYS 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Marcell Ozuna had three hits including one of four Atlanta home runs as their offensive resurgence continued in a rout of Tampa Bay.

Charlie Morton (4-3) allowed one run on three hits over six innings while striking out eight, walking two and hitting two batters. He also picked a runner off first.

Jarred Kelenic, in his first game batting leadoff for the Braves after a hamstring injury to Michael Harris II, was 3 for 5 with a home run and two RBIs, while Austin Riley hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning. Matt Olson hit his 11th home run of the season.

Ozuna's two RBIs gave him an NL-leading 62 for the season.

Ryan Pepiot (4-4) suffered his first road loss of the season

for the Rays, who have lost seven of nine. He gave up five runs on six hits, walked three and struck out four.

METS 5, PADRES 1

NEW YORK (AP)—J.D. Martinez homered twice, Jose Quintana ended a 10-start winless streak and New York beat San Diego for their eighth win in 10 games.

Martinez walked in his first two plate appearances against Adam Mazur (0-2), then homered off Jhony Brito to cap a three-run fourth and hit a solo drive in the seventh against Enyel De Los Santos.

Both homers were opposite-field drives and gave Martinez 23 multihomer games. He has 15 RBIs in his last 14 games after getting 11 in his first 29 with New York.

Brandon Nimmo hit RBI doubles in the fourth and eighth innings for the Mets, who have won four straight.

TIGERS 13, ASTROS 5

HOUSTON (AP)—Riley Greene homered in each of the first two innings and set career highs with four hits and six RBIs as Detroit raced to a huge lead and cruised to a win over Houston.

The Tigers jumped on starter Spencer Arrighetti (3-6) for five hits and seven runs in just 1 1/3 innings. The 24-year-old got the start after Justin Verlander was scratched with neck discomfort Saturday morning.

Matt Vierling, Carson Kelly and Colt Keith each hit a solo homer to give Detroit a season-high five home runs. Wenceel Pérez added a career-best four hits with two RBIs as the Tigers piled up 19 hits—their most this season.

MARINERS 7,

RANGERS 5

SEATTLE (AP)—Julio Rodríguez hit a two-run homer, his second in three games, George Kirby allowed an unearned run over six innings and Seattle held off Texas.

Seattle won for the sixth time in seven games and won its ninth consecutive series at home dating to mid-April. The Mariners also increased their lead over the defending champion Rangers to 7 1/2 games in the AL West. It's the largest division lead for Seattle at any point since June 18, 2003, when it also had a 7 1/2-game advantage.

Kirby (6-5) didn't give up a hit until Wyatt Langford's infield single with one out in the fourth inning. Kirby leaned heavily on a fastball at the top of the strike zone and scattered three hits over six innings. Marcus Semien had an RBI double in the fifth inning, but Kirby finished his outing by striking out the side in the sixth.

RED SOX 8, YANKEES 4

BOSTON (AP)—Rafael Devers hit a two-run double and Boston ended Carlos Rodón's seven-start winning streak by beating New York.

Tyler O'Neill and rookie Jamie Westbrook had RBI doubles in a three-run first inning for the Red Sox, who rebounded from an 8-1 loss in Friday's series opener to win before just the second sellout at Fenway Park this season.

Boston improved to 33-9 wearing their City Connect uniforms with bright yellow jerseys and powder blue lettering, including 18-5 in the past two years.

Rodón (9-3) had allowed three or fewer runs in 13 of 14 starts this season. O'Neill and Westbrook sandwiched their doubles around Connor Wong's run-scoring's single.

ROYALS 7, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—MJ Melendez hit a grand slam to conclude a 12-pitch at-bat, Seth Lugo became the AL's first 10-game winner and Kansas City defeated Los Angeles as Yoshinobu Yamamoto's start was cut short after two innings due to triceps tightness.

Kansas City loaded the bases on three straight walks by Blake Treinen. Melendez fouled off six straight pitches with a 2-2 count, but worked the count full when Treinen threw a cutter inside.

Treinen went to the cutter again on the next pitch, but it was slightly elevated inside the strike zone as Melendez drove it over the right-field wall for his first career grand

slam and a 5-2 lead. Kansas City had dropped five of six coming in.

According to Baseball Reference, it is only the second time since 1970 there has been a grand slam on a full count with at least 12 pitches in the at-bat. In 2018, Mookie Betts cleared the bases for Boston on the 13th pitch against Toronto's J.A. Happ.

ROCKIES 16, PIRATES 4

DENVER (AP)—Hunter Goodman had two homers and five RBIs in his first four-hit game, Ryan McMahon doubled twice and stole home, and Colorado scored their most runs in two years in a rout of Pittsburgh.

Goodman made his second big league start at catcher and put the Rockies ahead with a 440-foot solo homer in the third inning against rookie Jared Jones (4-6). He doubled in a run in a three-run fourth, singled and scored in the sixth, hit a 429-foot, two-run homer in the seventh off Justin Bruihl and had an RBI groundout in a six-run eighth that included Michael Toglia's grand slam against Dennis Santana.

Colorado had six doubles, a triple and three home runs in its highest-scoring game since a 16-5 win over St. Louis on Aug. 9, 2022.

Andrew McCutchen and Nick Gonzales homered for the Pirates, who had won their previous five games at Coors Field. McCutchen joined Jeff Kent and Giancarlo Stanton as the only visiting players to homer in five straight games at the mile-high ballpark.

Pittsburgh gave up its most runs since a 16-0 loss against the New York Yankees on July 6, 2022.

WHITE SOX 9, DIAMONDBACKS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Chicago scored its first run after what appeared to be an intentional balk, Lenyn Sosa hit a three-run homer as they picked up a rare road win with a victory over Arizona.

Erick Fedde (5-1) was sharp, allowing two runs on eight hits in six innings with six strikeouts.

Chicago had plenty of pop a night after managing one run in the series opener, finishing with four homers and 12 hits.

Andrew Vaughn homered and had three RBIs, Korey Lee hit a two-run shot and Paul DeJong had a solo homer in the White Sox's seventh win in 31 road games.

The Diamondbacks gave them a boost in the third inning with what may have been an intentional balk by Thyago Vieira (0-1).

Celts routed by Mavs in Game 4, but go home with chance to clinch



DALLAS

(AP)—Jayson Tatum had his step-back 3-pointer swatted away, then ended up in a heap on the floor and was called for a loose-ball foul.

It was that kind of night for Tatum and the Boston Celtics. They got knocked down hard in Game 4 of the NBA Finals when they had a chance to complete a sweep of the Dallas Mavericks.

Instead of wrapping up an unprecedented 18th NBA title, the Celtics suffered their worst loss ever in the NBA Finals—and one of the worst in league history—when they fell 122-84 on Friday night.

“It happened, we can’t change it. We had a bad night,” Tatum said. “We always say you lose by two or you lose by 30, they all count the same. ... We’re not making any excuses. We need to be better, and we will.”

The Celtics’ 10-game post-season winning streak, a franchise record, ended after they lost on the road for the first time in these playoffs. They had been 7-0, including a Game 3



win in Dallas after overcoming a 13-point deficit midway through the first quarter.

Now the Celtics will get a

chance to clinch it at home. Game 5 is in Boston on Monday night.

Dallas already had a

26-point lead at halftime, and any thoughts of a rally by the Celtics were pretty much done less than two minutes into the second half when Tatum had his shot blocked by Daniel Gafford, with the Boston forward reaching out as he fell and getting whistled for the foul.

With the outcome already all but certain, coach Joe Mazzulla emptied his bench with 3:18 left in the third quarter. It was then a 36-point margin,

and grew to as much as 48.

“I thought the guys came out with the right intentions. I just didn’t think it went our way, and I thought Dallas outplayed us. They just played harder,” Mazzulla said. “You have to prepare to put yourself in the best possible position, but it doesn’t guarantee anything. At the end of the day, we have to just maintain our process and get ready for Game 5.”

Tatum, who had 15 points and five rebounds, was on the bench with Jaylen Brown and the rest of the starters for the remainder of the night. And 7-foot-2 center Kristaps Porzingis never even removed his warmups after being declared available before the game.

“We take it, we don’t dismiss it. We’re going to learn from it, see how and why, exactly where the game was won and lost,” Brown said. “Then we take those experiences and then we come out and we play like our life depends on it, because it does.”

There have been only two more lopsided games this late in the season: Boston’s 131-92 win over the Lakers in Game 6 to wrap up the Celtics’ last championship in 2008; and Chicago’s record 42-point win over Utah in Game 3 in 1998.

The Celtics had their lowest-scoring half all season—regular season and playoffs combined—when trailing 61-35 at halftime. They had missed 26 shots and had only two offensive rebounds.

When it was all over, they had been outrebounded 52-31 and outscored in the paint 60-26.

“We can say all these things about us. They played much better than us,” said Al Horford, the 38-year-old center seeking his first NBA title. “They clearly outplayed us, and that’s tough to take. But that’s the reality.”

Irving ends his personal Celtics skid, so now Mavs will try to win in Boston

DALLAS (AP)—Kyrie Irving’s personal 13-game losing streak against the Celtics is over.

Now it’s back to the parquet floor in Boston to face his former team again, the Dallas Mavericks still alive in the NBA Finals after avoiding a sweep with a 122-84 blowout in Game 4 on Friday night.

The first two road games in this series weren’t Irving’s best, the two in Dallas quite a bit better despite a Game 3 loss that left the Mavs with a deficit no NBA team has overcome to win a playoff series.

Combine that with much more of an impact from the role players around Irving and co-star Luka Doncic, and maybe the constant booing of Irving from the jilted fans in Boston won’t ring quite as loudly in Game 5 on Monday night.

Plenty of green-clad Celtics fans were planning a celebration in Texas, but the loud cheers early when the game was close didn’t last long.

“You saw all those Celtics fans in there tonight. They travel in packs,” said Irving, who spent two seasons in Boston. “When we go to Boston, there’s going to be a bunch of them yelling a whole bunch of crazy stuff still, but I think we’ve been able to grow and face kind of this adversity head on.”

“We’re figuring out each other in a crazy way during the

highest stage of basketball,” Irving said. “So it’s a beautiful thing, but it also can be chaotic if you don’t know how to stay poised through it.”

If the Mavericks are to become just the 12th of 157 teams to force a Game 6 after falling behind 3-0—and get the title series back to Dallas—the supporting cast for Irving and Doncic will have to keep it up.

Dereck Lively II connected on a 3-pointer for the first time in his career—exactly seven months after the the second of the two regular-season attempts from beyond the arc by the 7-foot-1 rookie center.

At one point in the second half, Lively had 12 rebounds, his final total, to 16 for Boston. No wonder Dallas outscored the Celtics 60-26 in the paint, where Lively scored the other eight of his 11 points.

Dante Exum hit two 3s and had another taken away when replay revealed he had stepped out of bounds. The buckets from deep were coming from so many Dallas players—14 of 23, although those numbers were skewed a bit by the blowout—it didn’t matter that Doncic and Irving combined to go 1 of 14.

“It’s five people on the floor,” Doncic said. “So that’s huge for us. Everybody played with a lot of energy. That’s how we got to do it. We got to think the same way in Game 5 in Boston.”

Doncic scored 25 of his 29 points in the first half, while Irving had 10 of his 21 in the third quarter to help push a 26-point halftime lead to 38 before all starters were out of the game for good late in the third.

Lively’s games in the finals have somewhat mirrored those of Irving, his fellow Duke alum. The 20-year-old was mostly quiet in Boston. The two games in Dallas put him in the company of Magic Johnson as the only rookies with consecutive double-doubles in the NBA Finals.

He replaced starter Daniel Gafford earlier than in any of the previous finals games, and coach Jason Kidd said Lively just happened to be in the right spot—the right corner—when he hit the 3 to put Dallas ahead for good about three minutes later.

It’s unlikely Lively will start at this point—something he did early in his rookie season—but the crowd probably will notice when he heads to the scorer’s table for the first time back in Boston.

“If they leave me open in the corner, I’m going to get them up, for sure,” Lively said. “It’s just having that trust. Luka is going to give me the ball. As soon as I shot it, he kind of jumped for joy when it went in.”

Irving is still trying to find some joy in Boston, and he gets another chance this season.

Celtics take season’s worth of lessons into Game 5 with latest chance to secure title

BOSTON (AP)—The Celtics picked the most inopportune time to play their worst game of the season.

Boston’s 122-84 Game 4 loss to Dallas had all kinds of superlatives, and none of them were good.

It ended the Celtics’ 10-game playoff win streak. It was the Celtics’ lowest scoring output of the season and marked the first time the Celtics have allowed the Mavericks to eclipse 100 points in the series on a stellar night for Dallas stars Luka Doncic and Kyrie Irving.

It also reminded the Celtics that putting a championship bow on what has been one of the franchise’s most successful seasons will require the same resilience they’ve shown during a postseason in which they haven’t lost consecutive games.

“It’s a learning lesson, for sure. Got to show up and show out every night. They’re not going to roll over,” Celtics reserve Sam Hauser said. “They’re down 3-1 now. They’re desperate. ... They’re not going to make it easy on us.”

As humbling as Game 4’s loss was, history will be on the Celtics’ side for Game 5.

While Friday’s loss was the seventh time that the Celtics have lost by 20 or more points in the finals, they are 5-1 in the previous six.

The game Monday also falls on the 16th anniversary of Boston clinching its last championship in 2008.

“It’s a great opportunity to respond,” said Celtics forward Jaylen Brown, whose finished Game 4 with a minus-19 plus-minus—his second-worst of these playoffs and third-worst of his entire playoff career. “We just regroup. We keep our same mentality, and we come out and get ready to fight in another battle on our home floor.”

It’s also the latest chance for coach Joe Mazzulla to reinforce the lessons he has tried to instill in his team. Hauser recalled Boston’s Game 3 win when Dallas rallied to cut a 21-point fourth quarter lead to just one with less than four minutes to play.

“The Mavs were on that big run, the start of the fourth

there. He came in and said, ‘That was great. That makes us hungrier,’” Hauser said. “He didn’t even focus on the win, he focused on that, which was cool. It keeps all of us grounded and knowing that we have more work to do.”

It was the same tone Mazzulla tried to set during the regular season.

Boston opened the season by winning its first five games before losing in overtime at Minnesota. Postgame Mazzulla expressed excitement for his team experiencing an opponent challenging it to play its best basketball. Following another loss two nights later at Philadelphia, the Celtics reeled off six straight victories.

In February, the Celtics lost on their home court to a Los Angeles Lakers team without both LeBron James and Anthony Davis. Then Boston reeled off a season-high 11-game win streak.

The Celtics are now just one more bounce-back win away from seeing those instances of adversity bear championship fruit.

Jakey to dive into Coast Guard Academy

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

Anthony Jacob “Jakey” Camacho Deleon Guerrero, seasoned competitive former CNMI national swimmer, is diving into a new challenge as he gets the nod for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

The 2023 Marianas High School graduate is heading off to the academy in New London, Connecticut at the end of the month, with his swearing in on July 1. He is currently spending time back home with his family.

The 18-year-old recently just finished up his freshman year at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. In the academy, he will finish his bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering.

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy in an accredited college educating future Coast

Guard officers. The Coast Guard Academy’s Corps of Cadets is the smallest of the five military service academies and represents the best and brightest students, ready to serve and lead the country.

Admission to the Coast Guard Academy is highly competitive and fewer than 400 appointments are offered annually from a pool of over 2,000 applicants. Cadets receive a full tuition scholarship and monthly stipend for a five-year service commitment to the Coast Guard upon graduation. All graduates receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are guaranteed a position of leadership as a commissioned officer in the United States Coast Guard.

On why he joined the academy, he said he was inspired by some of his peers who’s joined, and that, “I just want to do something greater with myself and push my limits to see how far I can go.”

Ahead of his departure, he

said he’s looking forward to all the challenges and all the things he has to work towards. “It won’t be easy but I know those challenges will help me grow as a person,” he said.

As a student athlete in high school, he takes being physically active into his college career as he still swims and plays volleyball—but not competitively. Whether or not he’d be competing in the Academy, he said he will have to see first if all goes well because he knows it’s a hard thing to do.

The academy has a 60% student-athlete population and is a D3 school.

As the Coast Guard is very physically demanding, Deleon Guerrero’s athletic abilities will translate well into the Academy. He said, “As an athlete growing up, it does help a lot in terms of discipline.”

His mom is also a big inspiration for him and how she made a name for herself. “Seeing that, I want to continue that legacy and make a name

for myself and my family as well,” said Deleon Guerrero.

He first thanked God and said he’s been praying a lot with his family because it’s been a dream—not particularly the Academy, but that he also gets to make a name for himself. “I’ve actually wanted to join the military since 8th grade, so having this come true, I just want to give back to God,” he said.

He also thanked his family, his niña Natiya Camacho for helping him transition to Hawaii life, his niño Dewayne Camacho, and his uncle Juan Camacho. He then thanked U.S. Coast Guard Cmdr. Christine Igisomar, for seeing his potential and for taking the time to help him out with his application.

His advice to the youth is to take advantage of technology and social media, as well as the sources in the CNMI. “There’s so many opportunities here as well such as NMTEch,” he said. “The path



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anthony Jacob “Jakey” Camacho Deleon Guerrero has been admitted to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the smallest of the five military service academies and represents the best and brightest students, ready to serve and lead the country.

is limitless and there’s just so many resources at your disposal. Whatever the opportunity is, you should go for it.”

His mother, Alfreda C. Maratita, the executive director of Commonwealth of Transit Authority said, “We are very proud of Jakey and grateful to every single individual who has helped teach, guide, inspire, and love our son through the years. To God, we give all the glory for His faithfulness and continued blessings—most especially

for the full appointment to this prestigious opportunity with the United States Coast Guard Academy. As Jakey embarks on a new chapter, our faith in God to keep our son safe, healthy, and focused shall remain steadfast for this is His will for our son. Wherever Jakey goes, may he always remember to keep the CNMI in his heart his home.”

Deleon Guerrero is the son of Audie and Alfreda C. Maratita, and his biological father is Anthony Deleon Guerrero.

SWIMMERS

From page 16

so there was a lot on my mind, however, I used that as my motivation. I was thinking of my family watching at home and I could hear the crowd and my teammates cheering me on. A lot of people believe in me, so I made sure not to let

them down. This was my first win of this competition and I would like to think of this as an inspiration for the days ahead of me,” said Batallones.

The CNMI also mined gold medals in the mixed 200-yard freestyle relay and mixed 400-yard freestyle relay.

Pajarillaga and Batallones teamed up with Isaiah Aleksenko and Shoko Litulumar to

blow Palau out of the water in the mixed 200-yard freestyle relay, 1:36.66-1:39.57. Host Marshall Islands was third (1:39.96).

In the mixed 400-yard freestyle relay, Batallones, Aleksenko, Raho, and Kouki Watanabe grabbed the gold with a dominating 3:52.10 swim. Palau (4:05.61) and Pohnpei (4:16.27) were a far second and third.

In beach volleyball, Kathy Winkfield and Aurora Santos won their debut by beating host Marshall Island, while Dylan Mister and Jermaine Salas topped Marshall Islands, but lost to Palau last Saturday. Yesterday, Winkfield and Santos got the better of Nauru, but absorbed a 7-21, 24-22, 15-10 setback against Guam, while Mister and Salas lost a 18-21, 19-21 decision against Nauru.

“Both teams are doing very well considering we’ve only practiced with each other for the first time for two days before competition. Both teams

are learning to adjust to each other styles and learning with every game. It’s like a crash course team building session on how to play with your partner,” said playing coach Winkfield.

On the conditions at the sand court inside the Majuro Track & Field, the Northern Marianas College teacher said weather definitely has been a challenge.

“The sand courts are nice but there is only one court and it is very windy which makes the game more challenging but fun at the same time. We have had some heavy downpours which both CNMI teams had to endure but it did not affect our wins. Majuro is nice, you can see the whole island in the lagoon and the people are so friendly. They have all been respectful and curious and it’s been great communicating and making friends with the other islands. Definitely an amazing, unforgettable experience!” she said.

And speaking of challenges,

CNMI National Tennis coach Jeff Race said the sport’s two venues couldn’t be more different.

“There are two separate venues here that have courts that are so totally different. We call them the red and blue courts. We practiced the first two days on the red courts which are crazy slick. Probably the slickest I’ve ever seen. Today (Saturday) we went to the blue courts. We were the first to play on them since they just finished them the day before. Apparently, we weren’t supposed to play on them but we just went on anyway. They are quite slow and generally vastly better. It’ll be really difficult to switch back and forth, as I’m sure that’s going to happen a lot,” he said.

Like Winkfield, Race also mentioned the heavy downpour Majuro is currently experiencing right smack at the start of the Micro Games.

“Lots of rain has chased us off of practice twice and

it rained wildly again today (Saturday) although we got our training in this morning. Nobody including the Marshallese tennis president really knows how we’re going to fit a 10-day competition into four days. Lydia (Tan) and I spent some time on Saipan trying to figure it out. We have a plan to do almost all short sets, but if it rains like it has the last three days there’s every chance that the tennis event will be a complete disaster and it won’t be able to be completed.”

Race said under these circumstances, players even in the best scenario may have to play six matches per day which is not only unheard of but extremely unsafe from a health perspective.

“Clearly whoever made the schedule had no idea what they were doing. Oh well. We’ll try our best to roll with the punches. I hope our players can get through it okay. No matter what happens we’ll bring medals back home,” he said.

SOFTBALL

From page 16

format is round-robin in the preliminary and double elimination in the playoffs.

“Numbers were drawn to settle who would play for the opening game of the three-day tournament. We’ll have the privilege to play against the home team RMI in the first ever softball game held at their new facility. After the conclusion of the two games, we will have a clearer idea of how the schedule will look and have a better idea how our opponents play,” team manager Manny Sablan said.

In weightlifting, Jaden Andrew and Leo Cristobal will compete in the men’s 67kg class today, starting at 11am at the International Convention Center, while Kaya Rasa will have her event for the 59kg class at 2pm. The rest of the team, Riella Ichio (76kg), NMI flag bearer Antonette Labausa (81kg), Lucio Eugenio (96kg), and Joseph Pangelinan (89), will have their respective competitions on Tuesday, June 18.

Athletics, basketball teams arrive in Majuro
Team Marianas’ athletics and

basketball squads reached the Marshall Islands Sunday night to join tennis, softball, weightlifting, and beach volleyball at the Athletes Village in Majuro. With the two groups making it to Marshalls, only the NMI National Wrestling Team is left on Saipan, as it won’t be arriving in Majuro until this Wednesday, June 19.

The NMI Women’s Basketball Team will see action right away as it plays Nauru today at 5:30pm (3:30pm Saipan time) at the Educational Cultural Center. The NMI is in Group B of the pool play in women’s basketball, joining Chuuk, Marshall Islands, and Nauru. Defending champion Guam is in Pool A with Kiribati and Pohnpei.

In the men’s division, the NMI is in Pool A with Guam, Chuuk, Kiribati, and Pohnpei. The NMI Men’s Basketball Team will take a rest today, as its first game is not until Tuesday at 1pm (11am Saipan time), against Kiribati. Pool B has Kosrae, Marshals, Nauru, Palau, and Yap.

Meanwhile, after its arrival in Majuro, the 22-member NMI athletics delegation will have a two-day rest, as they won’t be competing at the track until June 19. (PR)

FLEMING

From page 16

Northern Marianas, was one of the award presenters and she shared with *Saipan Tribune* the time when she used to be a contestant in the Dee Clayton Classic, “from that fitness physique pageant in bodybuilding, which is years ago, it’s pretty much what inspired me to do a real pageant. That’s what got me to join. Ms. Earth.

Winners for the different categories and divisions are as follows:

■ Classic Physique: Short Division, Lorenzo

Sanchez and Shawn Fleming. Tall Division, Florencio Padonia (first place), Ferdinand Jun Lagmay (second place), John Jimaro (third place), and Daniel Matsunaga (fourth place)

■ Men’s Physique: Short Division, Florencio Padonia (first place), Shawn Fleming (second place), Randel Nicomendus (third place), Athan Taisigue (fourth place), and E.J. Torres (fifth place). Tall Division, Bi-an Lee (first place) and Daniel Matsunaga (second place). Masters Division, Ferdinand Jun Lagmay (first place) and John Jimeno (second place).

■ Men’s Bantamweight Bodybuilding: Shawn Fleming (first place) and Lorenzo Salazar (second place).

■ Fitness Pageant: Teen Short, Lei Ana Lizama (first place), Kimani Santos (second place), and Olyvia Atalig (third place). Teen Tall, Julong Indelencio (first place). Masters Division, Jhoy Revilla (first place), Ma. Cristina Vilas (second place) and Regina Crisostomo (third place)

The panel of judges for the 2024 Dee Clayton Classic were Jonas Barcinas (chief judge), Aaron Tamokane, Jeff Saavedra, and Joel Tudela. The event was opened by

a short dance number from Stanley Iakopo and Xtreme Fitness 670. James Taitano severed as the event’s emcee.

The 2024 Dee Clayton Classic sponsors are the following: Coca-Cola (Foremost), Megabyte Computer of Saipan, Tan Sui Lin Foundation, Gold’s Gym, Latte Built Gym, World Resort, Saipan Power 99, Island Floral by Philip, Ana Glusko Performing Arts, Rosel Printing, Xtreme Fitness 670, Saipan Mayor’s Office, Department of Youth Services, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, Saipan Studio, Topnotch, and Health City of Guam.



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Phillies,
6-2, behind
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Swimmers scoop 4 gold medals in Day 2

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

The CNMI National Swimming Team made immediate waves by bagging four gold medals in Day 2 of the 2024 Micronesian Games yesterday at the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

Beach volleyball, meanwhile, got going last Saturday with the women's team winning two of their first three games and the men, so far, logging a 1-2 win-loss record at the Majuro Track & field.

National swimmer Kean Pajarillaga struck first by topping the men's 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 17:06.74, while teammate Justin Ma also made the podium by coming in third with a swim of 18:25.24. Pohnpei's Kyler Kihleng took the silver in 17:30.60.

"I feel pretty happy about my race, but I wish I would've gotten a faster time though. I wanted to have a time that was closer to my college's record for my event. I am dedicating this win to my family, my coach and his wife, and my friends," said Pajarillaga.

Maria Batallones then kept the CNMI rolling with another gold in the women's 1,650-yard freestyle after touching the tile in 19:32.65. Frances Raho gave Team NMI a 1-2 finish with a swim of 20:05.97, while Sari Barman almost gave the CNMI a sweep but settled for fourth place with a time of 22:12.83. Palau's Mikel Galyah took the bronze (20:56.07).

"Before the race I felt nervous and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI's Maria Batallones, center, and Frances Raho, left, pose with their gold and silver medals after the women's 1,650-yard freestyle of the 2024 Micronesian Games at the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.



The CNMI's Kean Pajarillaga, center, and Justin Ma, right, pose with their gold and bronze medals after the men's 1,650-yard freestyle of the 2024 Micronesian Games at the Kwajalein Pool in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.



The mixed mixed 400-yard freestyle relay team of Maria Batallones, Isaiah Aleksenko, Frances Raho, and Kouki Watanabe on the podium with Pohnpei and Palau swimmers.

excited. For the most part nervous because I didn't know what to expect, and excited because I believed in myself. Swimming the mile felt amazing to me, I was really feeling that race. I made sure to watch my pace and have nice strong strides. Seeing my coach cheering me on by the poolside really encouraged me to swim faster. The mile is a long swim

See **SWIMMERS** on Page 15

Fleming bags 6 awards at Dee Clayton Classic

By RACUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

Second-time contestant Shawn Fleming won six awards in last Saturday's 2024 Dee Clayton Classic at the Saipan World Resort.

The 32-year-old topped best abs in three categories—classic, open bodybuilding, and men's physique—and then won second place in the short classic physique division and men's physique short division. Fleming did win first place in the bodybuilding bantamweight division to round out his bevy of trophies.



RACUEL H. FLOYD

Overall winner in the bantamweight Category Shawn Fleming with, from left, Miss Earth CNMI 2023 Zowie Cruz and judge Aaron Tamokane during the 2024 Dee Clayton Classic last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



RACUEL H. FLOYD

Overall winner for the Classic Physique Category Lorenzo Eleazar with judge panelist Joel Tudela and CNMI Ms. Earth 2023 Zowie Cruz during the 2024 Dee Clayton Classic last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



This was the second time that he joined the competition. His first was in 2022 when he took second place in the men's physique short division. "It's really good, because I didn't expect to do this well, especially in the open bodybuilding. To have gotten first place overall. That was really surprising and I didn't expect it," said Fleming.

Despite Lorenzo Sanchez's second place finish in the bodybuilding bantamweight division, he received the overall award in the classic physique short division and received the special poser award.

Florencio Padonia, a 47-year-old waitstaff at Kensington Hotel and first-time contestant, won the overall title in the men's physique division and first place in the men's physique short division.

There were no contestants for the women's bodybuilding, figure, and bikini in this year's the Dee Clayon bodybuilding and fitness competition.

"Yeah, there's no female contestants. A lot of women that are like single moms they're hardworking moms. They go off-island during the summer to do their work, seminars,

and some are also preparing for the next competition, which is going to be off-island in Guam. So a lot of them don't want to do this because they're looking forward to represent the CNMI," explained organizer Dee Clayton, who the competition is named after.

According to Derek Cutting, Latte Built Gym owner and event sponsor, "It's a smaller show this year. It's not as big as some of the years. There was no female bodybuilders or bikini this year, but some of the guys, you know, they came in they came really well and they planned for in advance, regardless of how many are here," he said.

Winners of the fitness pageant category were Lei Ana Lizama, first place for the teen short division; and Julong Indalencio, first place in the teen tall division. Jhoy Revilla, a 35-year-old, won first place in the fitness pageant category, masters division. Revilla said she was invited by her Zumba coach to join and while hesitant at first, she eventually said yes, so she can improve her self-confidence.

"The very moment I was named first place, I felt like all my hard work and preparations for the competition paid off," she said.

Zowie Cruz, 2023 Miss Earth

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Softball, weightlifting start competition



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Women's National Fast-Pitch Softball Team players and coaches pose for a photo after their training session at the Majuro field last Saturday morning.

The NMI National Women's Fast-pitch Softball Team will have its long-awaited debut in the 2024 Micronesian Games when it takes on host Marshall Islands today at 10am in Majuro (8am Saipan time).

The opening day of the softball competition will also feature the two other teams in the field—Palau and Pohnpei—as they collide in the 4pm match. The competition

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RACUEL H. FLOYD

Fitness pageant winners of the 2024 Dee Clayton Classic, from left, Regina Crisostomo (third place Master Division), Lei Ana Lizama (first Place Teen Short Division), Kimani Santos (second place Teen Short Division), Jhoy Revilla (first place Masters Division), Julong Indalencio (first place Tall Division), Ma. Cristina Villas (second place Master Division), and Olyvia Atalig (third place Teen Short Division).